

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, October 25, 2012

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Autumn colour

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Carl breezes home

Total control racing has a new champion after poignant win

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Honorary alderman dies, 87



Harold Jackson

AN honorary Alderman of Dudley and former mayor of Warley has died. Councillor Harold Jackson was 87.

He represented Halesowen South on Dudley Council between 1987 and 2008. Councillor Jackson started out as a councillor in Smethwick in the 1960s. He went on to serve on the former Warley Borough Council from 1966 to 1974 and became mayor in 1969.

He leaves a son Nigel and daughter-in-law Margaret as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Councillor Jackson, who was a member of the Conservative party, received an MBE in the New Year's Honours List in 1990 for public and political services.

Paying tribute to him, Councillor David Vickers said: "He was a very well-respected councillor and a well-known figure in the town."

Councillor Jackson was a member of numerous council committees and was chairman of Halesowen Area Committee for many years.

Traders are struggling

STRUGGLING traders on Dudley Market say they are battling to stay in business with takings down by more than a third for some. Lengthy road closures in the town centre have deterred shoppers from visiting, stallholders say.

They also blame this year's wet weather and the effects of the recession for reducing footfall.

It comes as talks continue with council chiefs on plans to give the market place in High Street a £6 million makeover in a bid to attract more shoppers.

STUDENTS PREVIEW NEW £3m BUILDING

by Andrew Turton

A HANDFUL of students got their first look at a new £3 million teaching block at Halesowen College. The Block 10 will house students learning courses ranging from animal care to travel and tourism while also providing the latest facilities to those with learning difficulties.



Student Amy Southall, 17, checks out some of the new rooms in the block

Controversial homes opened

TWO new show homes have been opened on a controversial housing development being built at a former cricket club in Halesowen.

The 59 properties on the site of Coombes Woods Sports and Social Club in Coombes Road, being built by Barratt West Midlands, have attracted more than 1,000 inquiries from potential buyers. Now two show homes are being unveiled at the site as work continues to complete the project.

Residents have campaigned for three years against plans for a replacement clubhouse, which were drawn up when permission for the homes was granted.

They say the clubhouse, cricket pitch and bowling green on the Coombes Woods Green Wedge, off Stewarts Road, would ruin the area.

More than 700 people signed a petition against the development, being built by St Modwen, when they were first unveiled but they were given the nod in 2009.

They argued the site was a wildlife haven and every year attracted thousands of walkers and nature enthusiasts. Objectors to the scheme included the Friends of Leasowes, The Monarch's Way Association and the Halesowen Abbey Trust.

It marks the latest stage of a £20 million masterplan to transform the college's main Wellington Road campus.

Bosses hope the revamp will encourage more potential school pupils to take up courses at the college in the coming years.

The college will host an open day on November 3 where the wraps will come off the Block 10 for the first time.

It comes as both Dudley and Stourbridge colleges have unveiled multi-million pound teaching facilities with new courses.

Halesowen College principal Keith Bate said: "Our Open Days are always extremely busy, giving potential students the opportunity to see our excellent facilities and find out more about our wide range of courses."

"Students here at Halesowen can have the choice of a wide range of study options to suit their specific needs, this is an exciting move forward."

The open day will run from 10am until 4pm.

Facelift

New teaching rooms with interactive equipment for students are being created inside the new department.

Old 1960s buildings at Halesowen College are being torn down and redeveloped as part of the facility.

Dudley Council officers passed plans for a new sports changing area and storage building earlier this month.

They also secured approval to erect floodlights around the new all-weather sports pitch.

The final stage of the project will create additional teaching rooms to boost capacity at the college next year.

Work was completed last year on the college's new Block Nine housing science laboratories and IT suites last October.

Staff have also created outdoor courtyard at the college where students will be able to care for animals as part of their courses.

A modern refectory and classrooms for health and social care was completed in 2009.



The new block at Halesowen College is checked out by students from left Liam Sargent, Nathan Evans, Naomi Stennett, all aged 18, Amy Southall and Danayet Gezar both 17

Cannabis cartel is jailed for 70 years

A VIETNAMESE drug gang, which included a Halesowen man, which grew and stored cannabis worth millions in industrial units across the Black Country have been jailed for a total of 70 years.

The group used fake IDs and false bank statements to rent homes and industrial units in Halesowen, Smethwick, Tipton, Sandwell, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The leaders of the 29-strong syndicate had laundered at least £2 million through casinos and were using the drug money to fund a luxury lifestyle.

Police discovered the first of the cartel's factories after tip-offs of suspicious activity at an address in Wentworh Way, Harborne, on January 20 last year.

Tony Sam, aged 27, from North Drive, Handsworth, was the syndicate ring-leader. He was found guilty of conspiracy to supply drugs and jailed for six-and-a-half years.

Other key members included husband and wife Zahir Salim, 42, who was the shopkeeper of a nail bar in Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, and 43-year-old Hoa Nguyen from Cloister Drive, Halesowen.

The youngest gang member was Bao Nguyen, 21, of Albion Road, Handsworth.

Meals staff will double

THE number of staff based at Russells Hall Hospital who offer help to elderly patients at mealtimes is being more than doubled, bosses say.

An extra four nutritional support workers will be taken on at the Dudley hospital, taking the total to seven.

They will be employed on ward A2, which cares for general and stroke rehabilitation patients.

It is part of a set of priorities that health chiefs have drawn up for the coming year to improve the care of patients.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and the Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Halesowen who can help:

Tom Mason: 01902 319466
tom.mason@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlotte Lilley: 01902 319490
charlotte.lilley@expressandstar.co.uk
Will Ackermann: 01384 353213
will.ackermann@expressandstar.co.uk
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Adam Burling: 01384 353209
adam.burling@expressandstar.co.uk
Louise Jew: 01384 353201
louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
l.watton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports: E-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk
Photographic John Sambrook
Tel: 01902 319431

Advertising:

Nikki Cope
Tel: 01902 319573 E-mail: n.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353224 E-mail: e.parkes@expressandstar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Fresh bid to restore landmark tower site

A FRESH bid to restore Sedgley Beacon Tower and open it to visitors has been drawn up.

Volunteers want to raise thousands to improve the landmark.

They plan on making it easily accessible to the community and showcasing its heritage.

An ambitious 10-year action plan has now been created and the Friends of Sedgley Beacon group is recruiting more volunteers to help make the dream become a reality.

Group treasurer Tony Cowell said their aim was "to ensure Sedgley Beacon remains an inspirational space for people to celebrate and enjoy heritage, landscape and the natural environment".

Members want to restore the Grade II listed tower, which provides panoramic views across the Black Country and Staffordshire and install welcome signs with information about the site's past.

The work would include repairs to the steps in the tower. For more information about the group contact secretary Caroline Phillips on 01384 817490.

Pupils raise centre cash

SCHOOLCHILDREN have raised more than £200 for new sports equipment for a youth centre in Halesowen.

A team of six pupils at Leasowes High School raised the cash when they ran 70 miles between them on a treadmill in the school's fitness suite.

It took the students just over two hours to complete the challenge.

The money will go to Greenhill Youth Centre, in Long Lane, for new recreational equipment.

Manager Chris Bennett, said: "The students are proud of the amount."

Centre makeover

A COMMUNITY centre in Dudley has been given an £8,000 makeover.

Volunteers worked to redecorate the main room at the building in Overfield Road, Russells Hall. Some new equipment has been installed, including a DJ booth with new decks and lighting.

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Dragon's Den reject creaming it in



A BUSINESSMAN from Dudley is preparing to open a shop selling an anti-ageing product that was dismissed by the BBC's Dragons' Den team but is now making him £500,000 a month.

The unit will be unveiled by John Richardson in Brierley Hill High Street. It will sell products which are made by his firm Richibrown including

the Organic Natox Cream, which he says is a natural alternative to having botox.

Mr Richardson has also been offered a regular slot on shopping channel QVC in Canada, France and Germany, while he is also in talks over becoming a business advisor on ITV's Daybreak programme.

The Dragons' Den judging

panel featuring Duncan Bannatyne and Deborah Meaden turned down the entrepreneur on the show last year.

But worldwide sales of the £90-a-bottle cream are bringing in thousands for the 39-year-old, of Dudley Road, Halesowen.

The product has a £2.5 million turnover and is on sale in 18 countries. Now final build-

Museum boss defends move to slash 70 jobs

New addition to five generations



BETTY Rock's family, already spanning five generations, has just welcomed the latest addition - tiny Lexey-Rae.

It means the 90-year-old former wares clerk from Fairbourne Avenue, Rowley Regis, now has two great-great-grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, five grandchildren and two children.

"This has impacted significantly on the level of visitor attendance and income seen at the museum this year, as well as resulting in the withdrawal of local authority funding. We are very mindful of the impact of the proposed changes on the lives of our staff."

"Consultations with them

are ongoing and so far, after a period of six weeks, have involved 250 individual and group consultation meetings,"

ing themselves for a busy festive period. "We'll have to play it by ear," said the 46-year-old care home manager from Thorne Road. Lexey-Rae, daughter of Tracey's son Steven, was born at City Hospital.

Mrs Evenson added: "We're all delighted about Lexey-Rae.

She is absolutely beautiful. It was a bit strange being called a nan when my other son had his first girl a year ago but I'm getting used to it now."

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Tributes as 'Saint' dies at 52

FRIENDS and family of a Kidderminster runner known as The Saint because of his gentlemanly ways paid tribute to him after his sudden death.

Chris Hirst, aged 52, was gone for a run with a group from the Wyre Forest Hash House Harriers when he collapsed and died in a field at Stourbridge.

The father of two had been due to attend his mother's funeral the following day.

His partner Denise Woodward, 54, who works at King Edwards College, Stourbridge as an administrator, said: "He had said he didn't really feel like going running but wanted to de-stress, thinking he was going to his mother's funeral the next day."

He looked forward to going running and it was what he liked to do. He ruffled my hair and kissed me on the cheek and said 'see you' and I said my usual 'have a good hash greeting.'

Dr Rachel Ward, a 53-year-old GP and running club member, said: "Chris was called The Saint because he was just such a gentleman."

A funeral service is to be held at 1pm on October 26 at Wyre Forest Crematorium.

Officer off to Tanzania

A CHILDREN'S officer for the Diocese of Worcester will be heading to Tanzania for a month to work in schools.

Emma Pettifer will be working with parishes and teachers on encouraging children's spirituality. The Diocese of Worcester has linked up with the Diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania.

Mrs Pettifer will be spending a week working in African schools followed by three weeks travelling around the diocese.

She said: "I'm really looking forward to seeing what Christian children's work is like in Africa."

Festive pub fair

A PUB will start its festive season with a fundraising Victorian craft fair.

The event will be held at the Jolly Crispin in Upper Gornal from 10am on December 6. Fundraising individuals or groups can run stalls. Stallholders will be charged £10 for the space and are asked to dress up in Victorian period dress. Call 01902 672220.

A final farewell to Dunkirk veteran Tommy



ONE of the Black Country's last surviving veterans of the epic wartime evacuation of Dunkirk – Private Tommy Phillips – has died aged 93.

Joseph Thomas Phillips, known as Tommy, who saw out service from the beginning to the end of the Second World War, died from a heart attack as he went to bed at his home on Dudley's Russells Hall estate.

His funeral will be held on October 26 at 11.30am at St Barnabas Church, Russells Hall, followed by cremation at Gornal Wood and donations will go to the Royal British Legion. Mr Phillips joined the Ter-

ritories with fellow footballing "mates" from Dudley in March 1939 because his mother thought it a good idea to "toughen him up" – and at least one of them didn't make it back from Dunkirk.

They signed up at the Army Recruitment Centre in Trindle Road, Dudley, for the 7th Battalion the Worcestershire Regiment B Company, later the 9th Worcesters.

Mr Phillips in 2010 told his Dunkirk story to the press for a special supplement commemorating the 70th anniversary of the evacuation of 300,000 British troops as the Germans marched into France.

He said: "We 'dug in' a gun pit with a French anti-tank gun, under the command of Captain Bradford, Dorset Regiment.

"After action we were ordered to pull back and later ordered to remove the breech block, to destroy the gun and bury it.

"On withdrawal, I passed by my school mate who I had joined up with, Les Taylor. 'Hello Les' I shouted, 'see you later'. But of course I never did, as Les never made it back." He said he escaped on the last destroyer that came in and it was dive-bombed by Stukas.



Dunkirk veteran Joseph Thomas Phillips

NEWS

in brief

Knitting group is running again

A KNITTING group has been relaunched at a library following a successful run earlier in the year.

The Knit and Natter Group will meet at Stourport Library from 10.30am until 11.30am every week.

New members are invited to join the sessions which give people the opportunity to learn how to knit and discuss the subject with others. It is free to join. Knitters can bring their own needles and wool with them.

Mayor's insight into being blind

THE Mayor of Dudley got some idea of what it is like to be blind on a special visit to a borough charity.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram visited the Thomas Pocklington Trust as part of their World Sight Day event.

The day at the Mary Stevens Centre, Stourbridge, aimed to highlight visual impairment and the work which goes on to support people who have sight loss. The mayor took part in an experiment where he was blindfolded and given a series of tests.

Orchestra needs more oboe players

A CHOIR and orchestra is urgently appealing for oboe players.

Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra rehearses on Mondays at the Unicorn Centre, Bretell Lane, Amblecote, at 7.30pm.

The next concert is on December 8 at St Michael's Church, Norton, with Strauss waltzes.

For further information telephone Mollie Berry on 01384 373111.

Poster messages to raise funding

A HOSPICE in Worcestershire is encouraging people to save time and money this Christmas by using one of their giant message posters.

Messages can be written on the poster and a donation made to the St Richard's Hospice.

Call 01905 763963 for further details.

Appeal launch

THE Bewdley Branch of the Royal British Legion is launching its Poppy Appeal on October 27. A short parade will start out from Bewdley Guild Hall at 11am.

Blaze of autumn colour as thousands head for canal



Canal boats look a delight among the autumn colours during the trust's open weekend



Joe Hollingshead, from Wolverhampton, on his boat



Alan Baker, of Brierley Hill with his 1929 steam roller



People mill around displays during the open weekend

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



FRIDAY was National Stockings Day. Thanks goodness it's over. I was so glad to get back into woolly socks.

ANYONE know the medical term for an irrational fear of being struck by Austrian stuntmen in spacesuits falling out of the sky? Terrifying, isn't it?

SO SCOTLAND alone is to decide whether the United Kingdom should break apart. And if the Scots quit, but 10 or 20 years from now realise it was a terrible mistake, will the rest of us have a vote on letting them back in?

OUR changing language. An ambulance service press release tells us the victim of an accident suffered injuries "that were incompatible with life." Or, as we used to say, fatal.

TWO elderly readers in quick succession report receiving letters posted in England but supposedly sent by someone called Li Wu in China. It's the old inheritance scam. Someone has died and left a huge fortune and Li Wu has been given your name as a trustworthy person who can help in tracing the relatives. They will pay you £1 million in commission. And all they need is your bank details.

BUT for sheer brass neck and unbridled confidence, this week's gold award for attempted scamming goes to the bloke in a call centre a long, long way away who, in an almost impenetrable accent, assured me: "Hello. My name is Harry Jones." Nice try.

I AM fully aware that duck is meant to be served pink. But when Nigel Slater stuck his fork into the glistening red flesh of his fried duck on his excellent Dish of the Day (BBC1, repeat), was I the only one expecting it to quack?

IN THE 40 years that Jimmy Savile was abusing a string of boys, girls, hospital patients and prison inmates while the authorities looked the other way, how many thousands of decent British citizens went through the costly, intrusive and utterly time-wasting business of passing a Criminal Records Bureau check?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Prolific burglar sent to prison after 49 crimes



A PROLIFIC and persistent burglar with 49 convictions to his name has been jailed for five years.

David Barnett stole bank cards, valuable documents, a handbag and a wallet during a night-time raid earlier this year. The 33-year-old, of Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley, shouted "kangaroo court" as he was led away.

The court heard he had entered a property on Fulbrook Road, also in Russells Hall, early on April 19.

Barnett also stole a memory stick which had work relating to a masters degree on it during the raid, as well as a mobile phone, clubcards, vouchers and a driving licence, the court was told.

The occupants discovered the items were missing the following morning. Most of them were recovered, including the memory stick.

Barnett pleaded not guilty to burglary.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Martin Walsh told Barnett his history of burglaries was "appalling".

"You are a prolific burglar and you are simply not entitled to any credit", he added.

His previous sentences include one of three years in 2004 for burglary.

Defending Barnett, Jasvir Mann asked the judge to be merciful in his verdict. "Since being released he has set about living a normal life," he added.

Discussions over honour

A GROUP has been set up to hammer out clear guidelines for awarding civic honours after a decision to give comic Lenny Henry the accolade was delayed.

The working party was formed to look at criteria for Freedom of the Borough.

It follows a motion to defer a decision on awarding the honour to the Dudley-born comedian at an extraordinary meeting of the full council last week. It was carried after concerns Mr Henry may not meet existing criteria.

The motion also looks for clearer guidelines to be agreed for use in the future.

Conservative group leader Councillor Les Jones, who put forward the motion, said the newly-formed group would meet next week.

He hoped agreement could be reached in a single session.

Artist's home becomes gallery



FRENCH artist Pascale Bigot is putting on an exhibition in her Stourbridge home for charity.

A similar event last year attracted almost 400 visitors. Pascale, aged 49, has lived in the town for 16 years.

She will display more than 50 paintings, fused glass jewellery, vases, bowls, Christmas decorations, cards and knitwear at 70, Worcester Street, Stourbridge, on November 2, 3 and 4 from 10am to 4pm.

Proceeds from items sold will go to a charity helping poor African women and children.

Pascale, married to technical manager Bruno, has three children – Julian, 20, Clement, 18, and Cecile, 13. She teaches art for Dudley Council adult education department. She said:

"About 12 years ago I went to Senegal and visited tribes there and I thought we might be able to do a little something to help them.

"So we joined a tiny French charity called Grainde Sable, which is a group of about 35 people, and we send money to help children and women in various countries in Africa."

Harry Shaw

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Christmas in Scotland - Imperial Hotel, Fort William

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Christmas in Ostend

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Christmas & New Year in Spain - 4* Hotel Golden Bahia, Tossa de Mar

22 December - 13 Days • 10 Nights from £699.95

Twixmas in Eastbourne - Mansion Lions Hotel

27 December - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £169.95

Twixmas on the Isle of Wight - Langham Court Hotel

27 December - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £149.95

Twixmas in Scarborough

27 December - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £159.95

Twixmas in Luxembourg & the Ardennes - Grand Hotel de Vianden

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Twixmas Mystery Tour

27 December - 4 Days • 3 Nights from £139.95

Twixmas in Torquay - Bancourt Hotel

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Student sentenced for attack at college

A STUDENT who carried out a violent attack outside Halesowen College has been given a suspended sentence.

Sean Smith repeatedly punched and then kicked Tyler Kimberley, who had become involved in a heated argument with Smith's friend Lucy Dale the previous day.

Smith, aged 20, who has since been suspended from the college, was given 52 weeks' detention in a young offenders' institution, suspended for two years, at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Judge Martin Walsh said Smith's early guilty plea to inflicting grievous bodily harm helped him avoid jail.

The court heard the incident took place on July 11.

Prosecutor Mrs Alka Brigue, said: "Without any warning the complainant was hit in the face more than once and then kicked twice to the head."

Mr Andrew Wallace, defending Smith, of Rowley Village, Rowley Regis, told the court his client insisted he kicked Mr Kimberley in the stomach not the head.

Smith was also given 200 hours of unpaid work and a curfew from 7pm to 7am.

History society

NED Williams will talk to Wordsley History Society about Brierley Hill at Work, which is in the Community Centre, Wordsley Green, on November 8 at 7.30pm.

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Estranged wife broke into house

AN estranged wife broke into the home of her husband after their marriage broke down and stole personal documents useful for the divorce, a court was told.

Karen Sturmy called a locksmith to help her get in after trying to drill through the front door, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 51-year-old beauty claimed she went to recover property belonging to their son, said David Lees, prosecution.

Once inside the house in Windsor Close, Gornal Wood, Dudley, she looked for personal papers of her husband.

She took a driving licence, passport, personal documents and laptop.

Mrs Sturmy also took his Audi. She was identified as the main suspect as Mr Sturmy returned home after the July 16 break in.

Mrs Sturmy drove the Audi to a police station the next day. Miss Siobhan Collins, defending, said initially she went to retrieve goods of her son. Mrs Sturmy, now of Birmingham admitted burglary and got a 12-month community order under supervision with 100 hours unpaid work.

Scheme grows

AN anti-metal theft membership scheme started by a Brierley Hill business in January has topped 1,000 members.

Mason Metals' pioneering scheme offered customers the chance to volunteer ID and become a member after consultation with police.



RAIDERS broke into the home of a grandmother while she was recovering from an operation and stole a precious gold chain – the last gift given to her by her late husband.

Devastated widow Lillian Horton has made an emotional plea for the gold chain and a locket containing a photograph of the couple. The sentimental jewellery was taken from Mrs Horton's Coseley home while she was in hospital being treated after a fall.

The 71-year-old was married to Ray for 43 years before he died of heart failure in 2005.

She said: "The gold chain was the last present Ray gave to me before he died and holds such sentimental value. It breaks my heart to think that someone burgled my house to steal it.

"My children know how special the chain is to me.

"After Ray died they bought me a locket which contained a picture of Ray and me. They even had it engraved with the words 'forever in my heart'.

"I have worn that locket and chain every day since and the only reason I had taken it off was because I had fallen and broken an arm and had to go into hospital for treatment."

The mother of three and grandmother of eight said her husband was a "much-loved, larger than life character" and she said everyone knew him in the area.

She added: "Ray always used sit on the wall outside our house with his dog and four cans of beer, after a hard day working as a painter and decorator. Everyone knew him as the man with the dog.

"All I want is for the jewellery to be returned as it means so much to me."

Along with the necklace thieves stole a gold ring inset with a sapphire, surrounded by diamonds. They also took bank books and cash. Police believe the burglary happened sometime between about 9am and 1pm on October 16.

£2,500 fine for cut trees

THE licensee of a Halesowen pub and another man have each been fined £2,500 for chopping back protected trees which were blocking light from the beer garden.

Licensee David Skitt and Ross Owen claimed they were "pruning" a yew, a birch and a lime, but photographs put before Dudley magistrates showed the trees ended up with whole branches lopped off.

Dudley Council planning officers were alerted to the destruction at the Huntingtree in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, by a member of the public on March 15.

Miss Neelam Bangar, prosecuting, said the three trees had a preservation order. But Skitt and Owen told the planning officers they thought the protected trees were on the other side of the site.

Skitt, aged 52, of the Huntingtree, and Owen, 31, of Leabank Road, Netherton, admitted three charges of wilfully destroying a tree. They were each fined a total of £2,500 and ordered to pay £172.50 costs and a £15 victim surcharge. Mr Mark Butterly, defending, said the men had made a mistake. He added remedial action had been taken on the damaged trees.

Fowne-ders of a new brewery



Brothers James and Tom Fownes launch the new Fownes Brewing Company

A BREWERY bringing beer-making back to a Dudley pub for the first time in more than a century has been officially launched with a mini-ale festival.

The Fownes Brewing Company will produce eight casks of ale from outbuildings at the Jolly Crispin pub, Upper Gornal.

Invited guests from real ale groups in the area got the chance to sample some of the beers available at the launch last week.

Members of the Campaign for Real Ale from across the area were invited to the grand opening and took a tour of the new brewery.

Ales created by the company were also available to sample along with food created using the beer.

It is hoped it will be creating up to 1,500 pints every week by the end of next year.

NEWS in brief

Arson case sent to Crown Court

A MAN is accused of starting a fire in the men's toilets at Dudley Library causing more than £6,000 damage.

Dean Challoner, of Vale Court, Cradley Heath, is charged with a single count of arson.

The 22-year-old spoke only to confirm his name, age and address when he appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court.

The case was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court. Challoner did not enter a plea. Challoner will next appear on December 14.

RSPCA use old electric blankets

ELECTRIC blankets which failed a safety test in Wyre Forest will be donated to the RSPCA under a new scheme.

Hereford and Worcester fire service has been holding safety testings in the region.

Around one out of every five blankets tested were found to be defective.

The blankets will be donated to the RSPCA after having the wires removed to be used for animal bedding.

Road will change

A ROAD in Halesowen will be made one-way for work to raise the carriage-way and install parking bays.

The work will take place on a small section of Stourdell Road for around 16 weeks from the beginning of November.

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NEWS

Extra powers for police to deal with village yobs

POLICE have been granted extra powers to disperse gangs of youths causing trouble around a Dudley village.

Officers will be able to move groups of two or more people suspected of anti-social behaviour in and around Gornal village.

Two dispersal orders have been granted to cover Lake Street, Five Ways, Lower Gornal, Gornal village and nearby streets, including the recreation ground.

Gornal Neighbourhood Policing Team applied for the orders which were supported by Dudley Council.

The order has been put in place following complaints received from residents about continuing problems in and around the village, including criminal damage.

They will run for the next six months.

The orders also give police the power to return anyone under 16 to their home address between 9pm and 6am.

Police said the orders would help them to address residents' concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

People who consistently break the order could face prosecution.

Sgt Rob Simpson, responsible for policing in Gornal, said the orders would help to tackle anti-social behaviour issues in the area.

"We are pleased to have secured these dispersal orders and hope to reduce the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour across the area. Sadly the actions of a few individuals have a negative effect on the whole community."

Police to walk the wall

POLICE officers in Dudley are taking part in an 88-mile hike along Hadrian's Wall for Macmillan Cancer Support.

They were inspired by the care that DC Steve Doggett's 25-year-old daughter is receiving from the charity. The team are urging people to donate via their Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/hadrians-wall.

Spooky safari spectacle



The Sea Lion Show is part of the Spooky Spectacular at the park

There will be plenty of magic at the sea lion shows at West Midland Safari Park during its Spooky Spectacular.

Giant scarecrows and witches will be entertaining for Halloween as they roam the park telling creepy tales to visitors.

The Discovery Trail exhibits - Twilight Cave, Creepy Crawlies, Se aquarium and Mark O'Shea's Reptile World will also be open along with a themed sea lion show performed each evening at the Sea Lion Theatre. The evening event runs until November 2.

Among the spooky scarecrows will be Pete the Pumpkin Head Pirate. The event opens at 5.30pm and last admission is 8pm. The park closes at 9pm. To book tickets call 01299 402114 or visit the park's official website www.wmsp.co.uk.

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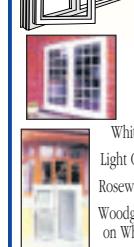
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LETTERS

Pensions sold to reduce poverty

THE introduction of the Workplace Pension is designed, as sold to us by the Government, to reduce poverty in old age.

In fact it has become mandatory for employers to implement, in order to reduce the liability on the Welfare State for future generations.

Most of the workers who will benefit from these private pensions would otherwise have been claiming a top up social security payment from the state.

When we are informed that annuity rates on pensions have fallen from 15 per cent to 5 per cent over the past 15 years, is it any wonder that people no

longer invest in private pension funds?

At present, pension fund administrators take a management fee of between one and four per cent a year of the fund regardless of whether it has increased or decreased in value.

A more realistic incentive for these managers would be to forego the fee if the value of the fund decreased.

We have all heard about the gold plated pensions paid to public sector workers and until the value of private pensions reaches the level of the public sector, no one will be willing to invest.

The people receiving these gold plated pensions argue that this is not a

race to the bottom and private sector pensions should be brought up to an equal level.

These people, a large proportion of whom are idealistic left wingers, do not seem to live in the real world if they believe this can ever happen.

If, as David Cameron suggests, that we are all in this together, drastic measures should be taken to severely reduce the amount of money paid out in public sector pensions as a matter of urgency.

ROY SLIMM
Church Road
Dudley

We are told a pack of lies by all main parties

MR R Seggar of Swindon took the words right out of my mouth (apologies to Meatloaf), but seriously we have been told a pack of lies by Labour, Conservatives and I don't think this coalition knows what the truth sounds like.

None of the promises in the run up to the election have seen the light of day yet, I doubt they ever will.

I was sent a booklet called A Referendum Stitch-up, with a word by N Farage saying the British people are not getting and never have got what we were led to believe we were voting for.

The political class covertly backed by EU counterparts are ready to mislead us yet again.

Forget shades of grey, this is in black and white.

Mr Seggar is right, let's give UKIP a chance.

JOHN PERKINS
Wood Road
Lower Gornal

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Any alternative view is now just bigotry

I THINK one of the most frightening statements I have ever heard was from Yvette Cooper when referring to Jeremy Hunt's view that the time limit for an abortion should be reduced to twelve weeks. She said she was "chilled and appalled" by his views.

One would think such dramatic phraseology would be better used towards someone in favour of increasing the time limit rather than reducing it. Which universe do these left wing lunatics inhabit?

Don't they realise there is a substantial number of everyday people in Britain who believe the usual use of abortion is simply wrong, or are they all bigots? A phrase now commonly used by our masters in all parties to describe anyone who disagrees with the latest politically correct dictat.

It must have been like this in the old Soviet Union. The Politburo decides what is right and wrong and ultimately what to think. Like when Nick Clegg had to have the word "bigot" excised from a speech to describe people who did not support gay marriage. The word may have been removed but the invective behind it remains. The old Judeo-Christian values are consigned to the scrapheap.

PETER LAWSON, Meadowsweet Way, Kingswin-

A simple procedure that could save lives

RE: the letter from Stuart Cross October 10 about double screening, myself and hundreds more have done this test several times.

What a fuss he has made about a small simple programme.

It takes all of a little sample from three motions, not a brain surgeon's job, simple job, simply done, and potentially saving many lives in the process.

Within a few days of sending your samples in, you get the results back good or bad.

After all, us women go through smear tests, breast screening, also not pleasant jobs but something that has to be done.

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The attentive service is the hallmark of the owners Sadique and Habib who seem to be constantly aware of the needs of each and every diner, clearing away the used plates and replenishing the dishes for the

extensive array of options on the buffet which the restaurant serve on a Monday night (a bargain at £7.95 per head). They seem to always be in the right place doing the right thing at the right time. In between greeting customers and taking bookings they deliver a level of service that ensures customers come back time and time again.

Mark Kenwood and wife Tina smiled at each other when I asked how long they had been customers of the Long Lane Balti House, "Actually we have been coming here for twenty years, and just about every week too, barring holidays and illness". Wife Tina added "What is amazing is that in all that time we have never had a bad meal or anything short of totally delicious". When asked what it was that kept them coming back Mark said "It is the great flavour and authenticity of the dishes that I love. I am a bit of a foodie as you can probably gather" he laughed while patting his tummy.

Even when their customers move out of the area, they still come back to get the Balti Towers treatment. Mr and Mrs Brumeton now from Tividale still make the pilgrimage back to their favourite restaurant after moving away from the area. "We still come back even though there are plenty of places near us that we could go to. It's worth the journey we even come here for our takeaways!

Local resident Nicola Kane has been dining at Balti Towers for half of her life. She first came to the restaurant as a teenager and judging by the beaming smile she gets as much satisfaction now as she did then. When asked what was the attraction she said simply "It's the food it's B E A Youtiful! A quote from Jim Carrey from the film 'Bruce Almighty'!"

It is a bit ironic that the name of the restaurant is fashioned on an establishment that was renowned for delivering the lowest



levels of customer satisfaction (Fawlty Towers), but you can rest assured that there is nothing Fawlty about this Balti. In fact they recently won a 5 star Food Hygiene award from Dudley MBC. Balti Towers has become the destination restaurant of the area and judging by the highest levels of satisfaction that its customers report, it is a serious contender for the Restaurant of the Year competition that takes place in the Chronicle in January next year. So pop along and judge for yourself you will get a warm welcome, a delicious meal and a service that would be the envy of any Michelin starred restaurant.

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NEWS

Veterans' enjoy the annual get-together



Kenny Craig with Bill Fernay, aged 92, of Wigan and Reg Pearce, of Bradley at the annual reunion

ARMED forces veterans who served in the Far East gathered near Dudley for an annual reunion.

Around 40 members of the Far East Veterans Association arrived at the Himley Hotel, School Road, for a weekend of activities and entertainment.

The group has branches in Wigan and Luton but its newest member is from Wolverhampton. Reg Pearce, aged 83, from Ashfield Road, had heard about the gathering and decided to visit and find out more about the group. Mr Pearce, who served in the police force for 25 years and attained the rank of inspector, was in the Royal Engineers between 1946 and 1953.

He was a transport corporal based Fan Ling, Hong Kong, from 1949 to 1952.

"I did not know about this group before but I am delighted to have discovered it," he said. Sedgley entertainer Kenny Craig entertained the veterans at a gala at the weekend.

Main route is branded as the most dangerous

A MAIN route between Stourbridge and Kidderminster has been branded the most dangerous road in the West Midlands in a new survey.

The report says there were 13 serious crashes on the four-mile stretch of the A451 in a four-year period—including one that killed an elderly couple from Dudley.

Now a Road Safety Foundation study has singled out the road, which runs through Norton and Iverley, as the most "high risk" in the region.

Joseph and Lily Fellows from Netherton, who were aged 85 and 84 respectively, died after a crash involving five cars on the road in May 2010. They were enjoying a day out when the tragedy happened in Iverley.

A car also ended up in a front garden after overturning at the roundabout with Racecourse Lane two years

ago. Two cars crashed at the Axborough crossroads on Boxing Day last year, leaving a 77-year-old woman with a broken collar bone and a 75-year-old male passenger having to be freed by the emergency services.

A lorry careered off the road near the Old Waggon and Horses pub in Iverley in 2008, knocking down an electricity pylon.

The study looks at the period between 2006 and 2010. Since then, action has been taken. Councillor Howard Martin, who represents Broadwaters at the Kidderminster end of the A451, said: "I think there should be an accident awareness campaign."

Fun for youngsters from library

YOUNGSTERS and their parents can have fun and learn together during a new weekly event at Kidderminster Library.

Shake, Rattle and Roll is held on Thursdays during term-time between 10.30am and 11am and is open to youngsters aged five and under.

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MEMORY LANE



The Carpet Trades building in the 1960s, at Mill Street Garden, with its clock



Woodward Grosvenor's distinctive building, part of its base in Green Street



T & A Naylor Ltd, with its carpet works factory, based in Green Street

Book's thread weaves through the history of carpet industry

by Lee Watton

LONG-lost factories which dominated Kidderminster at the height of its carpet-making industry are celebrated in a new book written to tie-in with the opening of the town's new museum.

Former carpet worker-turned historian Mervyn Thompson has spent five years putting the volume together, in order to create a "virtual walk" around some of the town's best-known sites.

The book, called Mills and Tall Chimneys of Kidderminster 1850s to 2010, will go on general sale at Kidderminster Carpet Museum when the attraction opens on Saturday.

It has been written to complement the exhibits at the museum and more than 300 advance copies of the book have already been sold privately. Mr Thompson has been heavily

involved in setting up the museum, which is based at the former Stourvale Mill, Green Street. The history of the site is one of those detailed in the volume along with other factories, some of which have now been lost.

The mill, which is now owned by supermarket giant Morrisons and leased to the Carpet Museum Trust, was once owned by the Woodward Grosvenor firm.

Volumes

Among the lost factories featured in the volume includes the old Brintons factory, in Castle Road, which is now the site of a Tesco supermarket.

The factory, once the historic firm's main base of operations, once employed around 2,000 workers from the town.

Demolition of the large building started in 2000 which included work to divert the River Stour to accommodate the new supermarket.

All that remains of the site is the offices, in Exchange Street, which were built in 1876. The firm has only recently vacated this building.

Another well-known building was the former Carpet Trades (Gilt Edge) site where the Crossey Retail Park is now located. A modern frontage to the site was built in 1962 and again the site employed around 2,000 people.

The new building only lasted just over 30 years and was taken down in 1993. There is now no sign of the once impressive factory left in place.

Another site lost to history is the T&A Naylor building, in Green Street, which is now the site of a large B&Q store.



Mervyn Thompson with his new book looking at the well-known buildings of the town's carpet-making industry, outside the former Castle Mill, New Road

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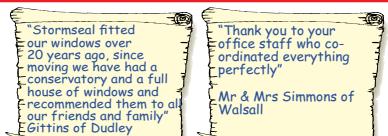


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NEWS

Demand for answers on future of charity trust

CAMPAIGNERS have demanded answers on the future of a trust fund set up to provide for good causes in Stourbridge.

The calls have been made because there are plans for an overhaul of community meetings.

The Ernest Stevens Trust was established in the name of the philanthropist who donated various properties for use by the community.

These good causes include Mary Stevens Park and the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, now the base for the Thomas Pocklington Trust and Dudley Mind charities.

Members of Stourbridge Area Committee act as trustees of the fund.

But the borough's five area committees will be broken up under new proposals which will see the creation of around 10 community forums.

Norton Councillor Heather Rogers said she was concerned how the trust would be managed if the committee was broken up.

Councillor Dave Tyler, who is leading the committee review, said: "Now is a good time to look at everything the Ernest Stevens Trust does because although I'm sure people have heard of it, not many will actually know what it does. The people have nothing to fear over the trust.

It will continue to be managed in Stourbridge."

Volunteers bring in cash

VOLUNTEERS have helped raise more than £700 for charity during a street collection in Stourbridge.

Members of the Royal Naval Association Stourbridge and District branch held the event recently.

In total £778.83 was collected to go towards the association's charity work.

Club hits 10th birthday



Jamie Williams, aged nine, and Maddy Harris, 11, front, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the 326 Club with other youngsters

A THRIVING after-school club with 40 young members is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The 326 Club, named after its regular opening hours, was started by the community at Gig Mill Primary School, Norton, Stourbridge.

Membership has grown over the decade and five staff now help run the

club in The Broadway Children, aged between four and 12, celebrated by inviting their families in for cake and tea. Former primary school teacher Jackie Parmenter took charge eight years ago at the 326 Club. "We are grateful for all the support from parents and we can't thank them enough."

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Time to Care...

There is a time when most of us will need some sort of care in our daily lives. It is the price that goes with extending our lifespan. The majority of us will benefit from relatives or close friends helping out but for some the only options available are either move out of our home and into a care establishment or pay for care at home. The preference for most of us would be to stay put in our own abode - as the saying goes "there's no place like home". It may not be an age issue, disability and illness can sometimes render day to day living difficult without the help of external assistance.

Stiled Home Services have grown organically from a straight forward home cleaning operation to now providing extensive and individually tailored care packages for people who wish to maintain their independence and quality of life in their own home. Christine and Michelle are the Mother and Daughter combination that have evolved their organisation to a highly reputable and well regarded business in the South Birmingham area. "We took the first step by extending our cleaning operation to include "Companion" cleaning. This was a result of the feedback we were getting from our staff that highlighted the need to offer companionship to clients whilst undertaking regular cleaning duties". This was to be the catalyst for the growth that has occurred since 2007.

The whole organisation grew and the experience that both Christine had as an Auxiliary Nurse and Michelle's as a Care



Manager were put into practice. The whole emphasis of this business is to give maximum respect to their clients, client's families and friends. "Our vision was to create a caring organisation that treats people the way we wanted to be treated ourselves. We wanted the staff to become our extended family and the clients the same. People are often very reluctant to admit they need help, they feel they are a burden and many felt that the best way forward was to struggle on alone. What they found was that by delegating some of their daily tasks to us it gave them a consistent routine, a purpose and a return of self-worth that is so often lacking in people who are living alone or at a distance from their relatives.

One important issue is the cost of Home Care which can often be the stumbling block for people considering the service. "Quite often people will qualify for the Attendance Allowance that is available from Social Services" Michelle pointed out. "Unfortunately up to 80% of people do not know that they are entitled to the Attendance Allowance, many assume that they do not fit the profile but many do. This can make a massive difference as it can pay up to £49.00 per week towards their care costs. One of the first things we do for any new or prospective clients is to guide them through the process".

Caring for an ageing relative is a skilled task. It is made more difficult as memory tends to fade with age and people begin to lose their memories which family members find difficult to cope with. With loss of memory comes loss of self worth. Stiled Home Services Staff are trained specifically to deal with this issue. "We can often slow the process down for our clients as we start a Reminiscence Book", says Michelle. "We record lots of personal information about the client, where they lived, worked, went to school and other important aspects of their life. This helps them keep those memories and more importantly gives our staff key insights into the person they are caring for. This helps to strengthen the bond between the carer and the client".

The most important aspect of releasing relative's time from the care they provide is that they can go back to being the relative. This improves the quality and the length of time they spend with their loved one at a very important part of their life. This can reduce stress all round as the weight of responsibility is shared with Stiled Home Services.



This is what some of their clients have to say

"From my initial meeting with the owner of the agency everything has been organised in a caring manner. She attended Social Service Meetings so knew from the start exactly what issues would need addressing. As well as providing morning and evening care the staff takes my parents to appointments and does jobs around the house. Stiled's aim was to stop me being the carer so I could become the daughter again. This aim was fulfilled within days of them taking over. I know my parents are cared for. The peace of mind is wonderful.

Elizabeth F (Daughter of clients)

I have an elderly cousin once removed who lives alone, has psychotic depression and for whom I had the power of attorney. I was at my wits end trying to look after her (I live 3/4 of an hour away) and liaise with all the relevant services etc. I first booked Stiled Home Services to come in and do her shopping to at least relieve me of that, my relative was frightened of anyone but me coming in. Since then SHS have taken over her personal care and her housework. Her mental state is now better than it has been for years and she looks forward to them coming each day - they are wonderful.

Alison W (Relative)

Friendly, professional staff who visit my mother twice a week (and occasional weekends) whilst I am at work. They help to give peace of mind that my mother is OK and that someone is there for her while I'm away. Someone for her to talk to and can listen with an interest whilst still keeping a confidence, is sometimes just simply of great benefit to her.

Alan P (Son of Client)

Stiled can provide as little as half an hour a week and upwards. They even undertake night sits for times when clients are unwell or recovering from treatment. "We are flexible in our approach but create routines that our clients become comfortable with. Our staff are the key, they communicate between themselves so that continuity and consistency are not compromised. We do not engage in "call cramming" like some agencies do. We understand our clients sometimes need a bit more time and attention and we allow the staff to pick up on this and deliver the best service we possibly can.

If we were able to arrange our own care now we would undoubtedly ensure we get the best we could. This is the minimum that our loved ones deserve at a time when it counts the most. With Stiled Home Services you can regain peace of mind and improve the quality of the time you have left with your loved ones. Just call for a confidential chat about your circumstances and you'll find the weight being lifted straight away. It's time to care

Stiled Home Services

WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE NEEDS CARE THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

ABOUT STILED HOME SERVICES

Here at Stiled Home Services our aim is to aid our clients in their own homes to maintain their independence and their feeling of self worth and dignity.

We offer a fully bespoke home care service which can be tailored to suit all your needs. All our clients have different requirements which is why we are on hand to deal with any situation, from short term to long term.

Temporary respite care replaces the normal care provided by family members or a friend, giving them a break from the responsibility of providing continual care.

Short-term care to attend to someone that has been discharged from a hospital and requires care during healing. Long-term support and friendship for someone who is beginning to struggle with living by themselves, but who doesn't want to be forced into move to a nursing home.

Personal Care

- Bathing - maintain personal hygiene
- Toilet needs
- Cooking meals
- Mealtime assistance
- Prompt Medication
- Personal appearance to Hair Care

Household tasks

- Housework
- Shopping
- Washing/ironing
- Repairs to clothes
- Collecting pensions, prescriptions
- Paying bills

Movement

- Mobility around the house
- Getting into and out of bed
- Using simple equipment
- Completing tasks outside of the house - shopping etc.
- Activities throughout the day

Social Connection

- Discussion and Chats
- Remaining in touch with friends and family
- Pursuing interests and hobbies
- Keeping pet animals



STILED HOME SERVICES OBJECTIVES

We offer skilled, trustworthy home care to enable people to live in their home as happily as they would normally. All our clients are treated with maximum respect, not just personally but relatives and friends also. Uphold the human and citizenship rights for our clients and those who visit them.

We will always support the decisions of our clients and advise them should this be needed. At the same time, we like to encourage our clients to participate in outings and activities they will certainly enjoy. Confidential approach is always taken and anything our staff are told is strictly kept to themselves



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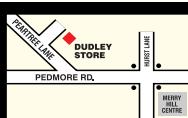
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**WORDSLEY
'M' TWG**

THE October meeting was opened by chairman for the day Wendy Lloyd. Minutes of the previous group meeting, were signed and treasurer Josie Bunn gave a detailed accounts review.

Details of the Federation Christmas carol service on December 8 at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, were given by Federation representative Ann Birchell.

The next Lunch Club meeting will be on Monday November 5 at The Hollybush, Penn at noon. The Christmas meal is at Best Western Hotel, Himley, on Monday December 3.

Christmas Carol the musical will be performed at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from November 6 to 10.

There followed a harvest sale of vegetables, fruit and plants.

Donations of chocolate items were received for the annual Christmas bazaar of the Community Association, to be held on November 24, for a 'prize every time' chocolate stall.

Rosemary Skidmore collected members' subscriptions for the Community Association 200 club.

The next group meeting will be at 10am at Wordsley Green Community Centre on Monday November 19 when Ian Bott will give an illustrated talk about 'Lost Mansions of the Black Country'. Visitors will be made welcome at a cost of £2.50, members £1.

Flag flying high at remembrance site



Lynne Tuckley and Jacqui Gray, SI Cannock & District, planting bulbs at the NMA

**CANNOCK
SOROPTIMISTS**

THREE Soroptimist regions, Midland Arden, Midland Chase and Midland East, met up at the National Memorial Arboretum for the club's Friendship day and as part of its ongoing support for the site.

Their role was to plant hundreds of crocus and daffodil bulbs in War Widows Wood.

Lynne Tuckley, Jacqui Gray and Trish Mellor from Cannock & District went along and planted daffodil bulbs, alongside Soroptimists from other clubs.

After the planting there was an opportunity to visit the Soroptimist plot, the only place in the world where the Soroptimist flag flies constantly, as well as visit other emotive plots at the NMA.

The day ended with a friendship tea. Now everyone is looking forward to visiting again in the spring to see the fruits of their labour.

The day ended with a friendship tea. Now everyone is looking forward to visiting again in the spring to see the fruits of their labour.

Guild moves to new venue

**WEDNESBURY
TWG**

GUILD members enjoyed the talk by Margaret Smallman about her childhood spent in a corner shop.

For the August meeting, members were requested to bring along a photograph of themselves from their younger years. It was more difficult than expected to

recognise each other, but created a deal of laughter.

The annual afternoon tea was a great success. Funds were boosted, enabling grants to be considered for local charities.

The September meeting was also enjoyable. The committee organised a Ploughman's supper and guild members contributed home produce for an auction.

From the next meeting, November 1, the guild will be moving to The Wesley Centre, Spring Head.

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NEWS

Being in finals is handy for Gary



Furniture restorer Gary Mills is a regional finalist in Britain's Top Tradesman

A DUDLEY handyman has won through to the Midlands final of a quest to find Britain's Top Tradesman.

Gary Mills retrained to take up furniture restoration and odd jobs after being made redundant as head of purchasing in a bank nine years ago. He has never looked back since, starting up - Gmac - in which his wife, Carole, is a partner. He has now beaten off competition from more than 3,000 tradesmen to become a finalist in the contest, organised by Screwfix.

Gary will be up against three other tradesmen in the Midlands final of the competition, to be held at Screwfix in Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent.

Man dies in car inferno after crash into a field

AN elderly man died when his car was engulfed by a "raging inferno" after careering off a country lane and across two fields before coming to rest, an inquest heard.

It was thought 83-year-old Ronald Titterton, may have suffered a heart problem before losing control of the vehicle but it was not known whether he died before or after it burst into flames.

His foot remained down on the accelerator as the vehicle veered 175 metres across the fields, only stopping to a halt due to the crops in a cornfield.

A neighbour raised the alarm after seeing the vehicle become engulfed in flames in the field, between Northampton Lane and Woodhall Lane, Ombersley, near Stourport.

Worcestershire Coroner Geraint Williams recorded an open verdict at the Stourport inquest, saying he could not be sure whether death was from natural causes or accidental, although he was

by Louise Jew

satisfied he had suffered some kind of "cardiac event". He said the blaze had been a raging inferno.

Mr Titterton, a retired housing officer, of Uppington Lane, Ombersley, died in the incident at about 10.45am on June 28.

Home Office pathologist Dr Alexander Kolar told the inquest he was unable to find a cause of death but Mr Titterton had "significant" heart abnormalities which could have killed him at any time.

Resident David Rigsby said in a statement: "I could see flames starting to take hold and dialled 999."

Time and tide display at cathedral

AN art exhibition at Worcester Cathedral will explore our relationship with the sea and time. The Time and Tide exhibition uses techniques including pastels and montages. Colin Monk is behind the exhibition at Worcester Cathedral's Dean's Chapel until November 6.

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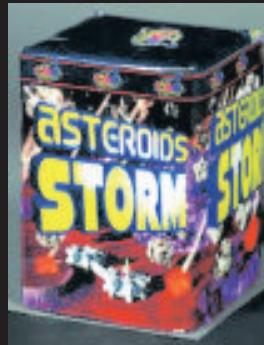


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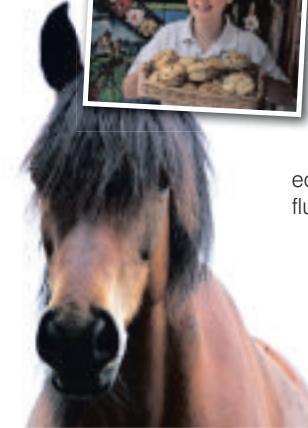
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NEWS

'Despicable' home help stole £400 from woman

A "DESPICABLE" home help stole £400 from a vulnerable 84-year-old pensioner at her Halesowen care home.

Mother-of-two Samantha Bowater, aged 32, befriended June Sidaway at Margaret Vine Court in order to steal the cash, a court heard.

Handing her a 32-month suspended sentence the judge at Wolverhampton Crown Court said her crimes were "thoroughly mean and despicable".

Bowater, of New John Street, Halesowen, went to Mrs Sidaway's flat on February 18.

The defendant's own grandmother also lived there the court heard.

Prosecutor Mr Nicholas Smith said, the defendant searched through drawers and even made coffee for her and Mrs Sidaway.

"The victim then saw her take something from a drawer, which it transpired was £400."

CCTV footage identified Bowater, who admitted to going inside the flat but initially denied burglary and theft. She later pleaded guilty to both charges September 12, the day of her proposed trial.

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, said: "Over recent times she had problems with debt and ill-health and had relapsed into taking drugs. "Her offending was due to an underlying problem with drugs and she has since done everything she can to address that."

Judge Martin Walsh ordered Bowater to undertake a drug rehabilitation requirement for 12 months and be placed under a two-year community order, as well as completing 200 hours of unpaid work.

Celebrity introduction

ITV weather presenter Emma Jesson will introduce a long-range business forecast for Worcestershire. Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership will detail its plans for the future at its Mid-Term Conference on November 9 in The Pitch View Suite at Worcester Warriors Stadium. Register for the event at www.eventephant.com/wlepbright

Delight over SVR shares



Station manager and director Chris Walton is promoting the offer

BOSSES at are delighted that the Severn Valley Railway has raised £500,000 since launching its share offer at the start of the month.

Steam enthusiasts from across the country have been busy snapping up shares after the £3million scheme was unveiled.

Money raised will be used to fund restoration work to revamp stations

and pay for maintenance work. Many people signed up to the share scheme at the annual shareholders' and members' event recently.

Three million shares at £1 each were made available to raise the money to build the station gateway and spectator gallery at Bridgnorth railway station and create a heritage engineering and training academy.

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COMPETITION

Cooking up some tasty festive treats

THE BBC Good Food Show Winter is back and to celebrate the Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers to offer 40 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

The BBC Good Food Show is the biggest and best food show in the country and this year the line-up is just as stellar as always. Top foodie faces including John Torode, Gregg Wallace, James Martin, Gino D'Acampo and The Hairy Bikers, plus many more, will be taking to the Supertheatre. Join Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood from the BAFTA award-winning TV series for The Great British Bake-Off

There will be hundreds of exhibitors from Cornish Cheese Co to David's Chilli Oil and Luponda tea plus BBC Good Food Show regulars including Foxes Spices and The Curry Sauce Company.

Unusual

With Christmas just around the corner it will be the perfect place to pick up inspiration to make your Christmas stand out from the crowds this year and try something different. Buy your loved ones unusual gifts, pick up inspiration from top chefs for your Christmas dining and don't forget to stock up your drinks cabinets with something new.

James Martin says: "I love visiting the BBC Good Food Show Winter every year. It's great to catch up with old friends but on top of that there is such a wealth of producers and exhibitors to choose from that I never fail to find something to make my Christmas a little bit different every year."

Visitors will be able to take tasting tours of the Olympics of the Cheese World. With more than 150 tonnes of cheese and 3,000 different varieties you are bound to find something to fit your Christmas cheese platter.

Shop and browse from hundreds of exhibitors and small producers. Pick up some Japanese knives from IOShen, a winter liqueur selection from Demijohn or perhaps a Lavazza coffee machine for that perfect Christmas gift.

Ticket prices start at just £21.50. To book tickets visit BBCGoodFoodShow.com or call 0844 581 1360.



Join Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood for The Great British Bake-Off



James Martin will be rustling up something tasty

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning, answer this:

How many different varieties of cheese will be on offer at the show?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Food Show Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, November 1, 2012.

All tickets are general admission excluding Saturday. Tickets are non refundable and non-exchangeable. Ticket terms and conditions apply.



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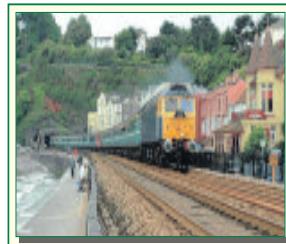
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What's On! Halesowen

Halloween fun is for all the family
FAMILIES can enjoy Halloween fun at the Red House Glass Cone's No Tricks, Just Treats free family fun day on Saturday (27 October).

The visitor attraction in Wordsley will be running craft activities, free spooky trail and providing free magic shows throughout the day.

Admission to the event is free, but there will be a charge for some of the activities. Fancy dress is welcome. While on site visitors can also look round the made@thecone exhibition featuring work by the cone's resident artists.

Group to stage classic romance

A THEATRE group will stage Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet in Dudley.

The Flying Theatre Company will perform their adaptation at Netherton Arts Centre on November 3.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, cost £10 adults and £6 children and are available from Dudley Box Office on 01384 812812.

Jazz band at club

THE Frog Island Jazz Band will perform at Halesowen Cricket Club.

The band will hop on stage at 8.30pm on Sunday, October 28.

The London group will play classic jazz pieces by legends including Joe 'King' Oliver and Jelly Roll Morton. Tickets are £4. Call 0121 550 6335.

Those dancing feet are heading for 42nd Street

WEST End stars Marti Webb and David Willetts will be leading the cast when classic American musical 42nd Street rolls into Wolverhampton next week.

This is the latest revival of the ever-popular 1980s musical based on a movie from the golden age of Hollywood, telling the story of Peggy Sawyer, a chorus girl who suddenly becomes star of a Broadway show.

The show features such songs as Keep Young And Beautiful, I Only Have Eyes For You, Lullaby of Broadway, We're In The Money and the famous title song.

It conjures up the heyday of the spectacular musical with tap-dancing chorus lines, glamorous costumes and Busby Berkeley style choreography.

Jessica Punch plays Peggy, the young actress who takes over when the veteran leading lady, played by Marti Webb, is indisposed. David Willetts is the hard-pressed director.

42nd Street is at the Grand from Tuesday, October 30, to November 3.

Another leading West End lady, Ruthie Henshall, showcases her talents in her afternoon Sound of Musicals concert, from 3pm, on Sunday, November 4, at Birmingham Town Hall.

'Superstars' at New Alex

SUPERSTAR winner Ben Forster, who wowed audiences in Jesus Christ Superstar, has been cast as Brad in Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show, at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre, from January 28 to February 2.

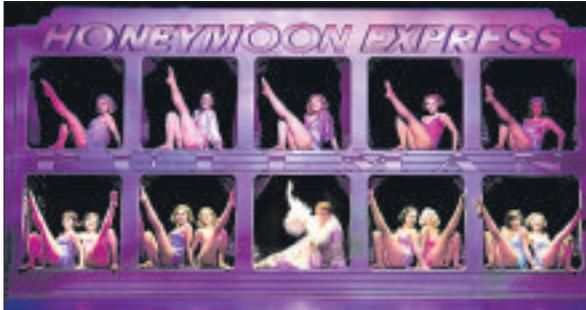
It features X Factor singer and former Birmingham student Rhydian as Rocky.

Superstar runner-up Rory Taylor will star in Rent, alongside Wicked star Kerry Ellis, at the New Alex for one night only on April 30.

X Factor finalist Marcus Collins plays Seaweed Stubbs when Hairspray is staged at Birmingham Hippodrome next summer.



A spectacular chorus line number from the Broadway musical 42nd Street



Express delivery – 1930s glamour in 42nd Street, due at the Grand Theatre

Blaze back as rockers recall the glory days

HEAVY metal band Wolfsbane will be rocking the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday, as part of their Save The World Tour.

The veteran rockers from Staffordshire – who were signed to Rick Rubin's Def American label – will be selling a limited edition CD at the gig. Recorded in 1993, 'The Lost Tapes (A Secret History)' contains an early version of their third album, plus extra tracks.

The band formed in 1984 but singer Blaze Bayley left to join Iron Maiden 10 years later. Following the release of their eponymous third album, the band realised they had lost their live studio recording of it.

Guitarist Jase Edwards said: "It's thrilling to have found it again and it sounds even better than we remembered it."

Blaze is back with Jase, bassist Jeff Hatley and drummer Steve 'Danger' Ellett, reunited at the Robin 2. Tickets £13.50 on the door.

Gospel concert has African sound

A TRADITIONAL African gospel concert will be performed in Dudley on November 3.

Nkosi Ka Ndlovu & The Experience, will also be recording their latest live CD and DVD at the gig.

Proceeds will go to Mr Ndlovu's former school Zidulini primary in Zimbabwe, where he started a development project in 2009.

Mr Ndlovu has performed all over the United Kingdom backed by his band The Experience.

The show takes place at Dudley Town Hall at 7pm.

Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 children aged six to 15, and children up to five years old go free.

School reunion call to old pupils

A REUNION is being held for pupils of a former Dudley school.

It is for students who left the Sir Gilbert Claughton School in 1962 or 1964 and will be held at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club, Swindon Road, Kingswinford, on October 26. Anyone interested is asked to call Roger Shakespeare on 07779 923687.

Innes at the hall

NEIL Innes performs a wry, poignant, humorous and topical one-man show in Stourbridge on October 30.

The former Monty Python star will be on stage at the Town Hall at 8pm. Tickets are £15. Visiting www.dudley.gov.uk.

Reach For The Stars 2012 At HALESOWEN CRICKET CLUB

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What's On! Halesowen

Those dancing feet are heading for 42nd Street

Halloween fun is for all the family. FAMILIES can enjoy Halloween fun at the Red House Glass Cone's No Tricks, Just Treats free family fun day on Saturday (27 October).

The visitor attraction in Wordsley will be running craft activities, free spooky trail and providing free magic shows throughout the day.

Admission to the event is free, but there will be a charge for some of the activities. Fancy dress is welcome. While on site visitors can also look round the made@thecone exhibition featuring work by the cone's resident artists.

Group to stage classic romance

A THEATRE group will stage Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet in Dudley.

The Flying Theatre Company will perform their adaptation at Nethermoor Arts Centre on November 3.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, cost £10 adults and £6 children and are available from Dudley Box Office on 01384 812812.

Jazz band at club

THE Frog Island Jazz Band will perform at Halesowen Cricket Club.

The band will hop on stage at 8.30pm on Sunday, October 28.

The London group will play classic jazz pieces by legends including Joe 'King' Oliver and Jelly Roll Morton. Tickets are £4. Call 0121 550 6335.

WEST End stars Marti Webb and David Willetts will be leading the cast when classic American musical 42nd Street rolls into Wolverhampton next week.

This is the latest revival of the ever-popular 1980s musical based on a movie from the golden age of Hollywood, telling the story of Peggy Sawyer, a chorus girl who suddenly becomes star of a Broadway show.

The show features such songs as Keep Young And Beautiful, I Only Have Eyes For You, Lullaby of Broadway, We're In The Money and the famous title song.

It conjures up the heyday of the spectacular musical with tap-dancing chorus lines, glamorous costumes and Busby Berkeley style choreography.

Jessica Punch plays Peggy, the young actress who takes over when the veteran leading lady, played by Marti Webb, is indisposed. David Willetts is the hard-pressed director.

42nd Street is at the Grand from Tuesday, October 30, to November 3.

Another leading West End lady, Ruthie Henshall, showcases her talents in her afternoon Sound of Musicals concert, from 3pm, on Sunday, November 4, at Birmingham Town Hall.

'Superstars' at New Alex

SUPERSTAR winner Ben Forster, who wowed audiences in Jesus Christ Superstar, has been cast as Brad in Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show, at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre, from January 28 to February 2.

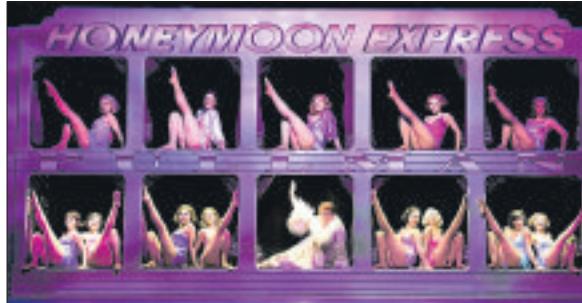
It features X Factor singer and former Birmingham student Rhydian as Rocky.

Superstar runner-up Rory Taylor will star in Rent, alongside Wicked star Kerry Ellis, at the New Alex for one night only on April 30.

X Factor finalist Marcus Collins plays Seaweed Stubbs when Hairspray is staged at Birmingham Hippodrome next summer.



A spectacular chorus line number from the Broadway musical 42nd Street



Express delivery - 1930s glamour in 42nd Street, due at the Grand Theatre

Blaze back as rockers recall the glory days

HEAVY metal band Wolfsbane will be rocking the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday, as part of their Save The World Tour.

The veteran rockers from Staffordshire - who were signed to Rick Rubin's Def American label - will be selling a limited edition CD at the gig. Recorded in 1993, 'The Lost Tapes (A Secret History)' contains an early version of their third album, plus extra tracks.

The band formed in 1984 but singer Blaze Bayley left to join Iron Maiden 10 years later. Following the release of their eponymous third album, the band realised they had lost their live studio recording of it.

Guitarist Jase Edwards said: "It's thrilling to have found it again and it sounds even better than we remembered it."

Blaze is back with Jase, bassist Jeff Hately and drummer Steve 'Danger' Ellett, reunited at the Robin 2. Tickets £13.50 on the door.

Gospel concert has African sound

A TRADITIONAL African gospel concert will be performed in Dudley on November 3.

Nkosi Ka Ndlovu & The Experience, will also be recording their latest live CD and DVD at the gig.

Proceeds will go to Mr Ndlovu's former school Zidulini primary in Zimbabwe, where he started a development project in 2009.

Mr Ndlovu has performed all over the United Kingdom backed by his band The Experience.

The show takes place at Dudley Town Hall at 7pm.

Tickets are £10 for adults, £7 children aged six to 15, and children up to five years old go free.

School reunion call to old pupils

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY**Bad Boys**, Channel 5, 9pm

Detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett search for a \$100million heroin consignment brazenly stolen by a French drug kingpin from the police evidence room. However, after a mix-up over a phone call from a potential witness, each cop has to assume the other's identity. Michael Bay's action thriller, starring Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Lea Neoni and Chely Karyo. (1995)

TUESDAY**Bad Company**, BBC1, 11.30pm

A secret agent is murdered, leaving his veteran CIA partner to transform the dead man's streetwise twin from an uncouth hustler into a credible replacement for his brother, so the agency can continue its investigation into a diabolical terrorist plot involving a nuclear bomb. Joel Schumacher's comedy thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins, Chris Rock and Peter Stormare. (2002)

WEDNESDAY**No Way Out**, BBC1, 12.10am

A navy officer unwittingly has an affair with a politician's mistress, and becomes involved in the investigation after she is murdered. However, he soon suspects the plan is to find a scapegoat rather than the real killer – and that he is the most likely candidate to take the fall. Political thriller, starring Kevin Costner, Gene Hackman, Sean Young, Iman and George Dzundza. (1987)



The Last of the Mohicans, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY**The Last of the Mohicans**, Channel 5, 10pm

An orphaned settler is adopted by the last member of a native tribe following the death of his family. The child grows to become legendary frontiersman Hawkeye, who rescues and falls in love with a British officer's daughter during the Anglo-French War in North America. But a bitter Huron war chief is determined to kill her to avenge himself on her father. Michael Mann's period adventure, based on James Fenimore Cooper's classic tale, starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Madeleine Stowe, Russell Means, Wes Studi, Maurice Roeves and Eric Schweig. (1992)

FRIDAY**Public Enemies**, ITV1, 10.35pm

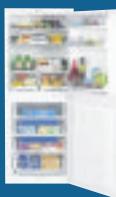
Fact-based crime drama following the last years of John Dillinger, whose run of bank robberies and daring prison escapes in the 1930s make him both America's most wanted criminal and a hero to a public struggling through the Depression. His career is soon to be cut short by the birth of the FBI, which assigns its most celebrated agent to bring him to justice. Directed by Michael Mann and starring Johnny Depp, Christian Bale and Marion Cotillard. (2009)



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Pick of the Week

Star-studded awards show honours heroes

Carol Vorderman is one of telly's most talked-about celebrities. If she's not putting the world to rights on *Loose Women*, she's plastered all over the papers because of her ability to perfectly carry off some designer dress or other.

But tonight she, along with a whole host of other famous faces, is taking a back seat for this particularly glamorous annual awards do.

Of course, as usual, she's on presenting duties at The Daily Mirror's Pride of Britain Awards 2012 (ITV1, 8pm), held at London's Grosvenor House.

But for one night only, nobody's interested in the who's-who of the audience or the red carpet limelight – tonight is well and truly turned on the awe-inspiring members of the British public who have gone over and above in the community, and displayed admirable acts of selflessness.

And this year, the ceremony comes with a promise of being 'bigger than ever'. To name but a few, we'll be hearing the stories of a six-year-old girl who risked her own life to save her

sister from the path of a runaway car, a terminally ill teen who has touched millions of people around the world with her blog, parents who raised £1.6million to fulfil their dying son's wish, and a young woman who donated a kidney in a moving legacy to her murdered mother.

Plus, Olympic hero Mo Farrah will be stepping in to honour the inspirational teacher who encouraged him to change paths as a teenage teen.

He's now a double gold medalist, so the teacher obviously did something right.

Ms Vorderman explains why she's so proud to be part of such an amazing night: "It always starts with the people who are the winners. For me, it is the only awards show on TV that really matters because the winners are real people who could not be more deserving."

"Over the past 13 years, there have been so many heart-warming, inspiring stories of people who have contributed so much to this country. It's a chance for us to celebrate Britain at its best and I'm not surprised it has

become the biggest national event of its kind."

Prince Charles takes part in the event every year, and speaks just as highly of the awards ceremony. He says: "The Pride of Britain Awards are, I believe, a unique way to celebrate the achievements of some truly remarkable people, and hear something of their inspiring and humbling stories."

"These marvellous awards remind all of us that, despite what one might think, throughout this country there are extraordinary people living selfless lives, showing unbelievable courage and caring for their families, neighbours and communities."

As though old beloved dog Pudsey of Britain's Got Talent fame are among those taking part.

Along with *BGT* judges David Walliams and Amanda Holden, while luminaries such as Stephen Fry, Prime Minister David Cameron and David Beckham will all be present to celebrate the nation's heroes.

Have your hankies at the ready and prepare to be uplifted by one of the most moving shows of the week.



The Pride of Britain Awards 2012, Tuesday, ITV1, 8pm

Best of the Rest

Monday**50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special**

BBC2, 9pm

As the name suggests, what we have here is a one-hour tribute to half a century of James Bond cars. It comes with presenter Richard Hammond as standard, features plenty of classic clips from 007 epics, and the sort of motors that can leave viewers drooling. For example, who could forget the Aston Martin from *Goldfinger*, or the submersible Lotus from *The Spy Who Loved Me*? No 007 tribute would be complete without Daniel Craig's input, and he was thrilled to take an old favourite out for a spin in new movie *Skyfall*. "It's no secret we've got the old DBs in this, and the buttons are all there, so I get to play with them," he smiles.

New Tricks

BBC1, 9pm

Cast your mind back to the beginning of this series of *New Tricks* – Jack Halford was still in the UCOS fold, none of the team had heard of Steve McAndrew, and high-ranking Whitehall official Stephen Fisher wanted the team to solve a murder that took place over a century ago. Well, it doesn't look like Jack is ever coming back, but in the last episode of the current series, Tim McInnerny reprises his role as Fisher. It turns out he's targeted by an assassin

Tuesday**The Paradise**

BBC1, 9pm

There's a little bit of excitement in the department store this week, which makes a nice change from

the usual doom and gloom. When exotic birds arrive to be sold at the Paradise, it brightens up Pauline's day – so much so that she offers to man the counter in a bid to impress Sam. However, the good moods, of course, don't last too long, as one of the birds makes its escape, leaving Pauline panic-stricken and Sam determined to help her rectify her mistake before Moray hears what's happened.

Operation Iceberg

BBC2, 9pm

So, what do we know about icebergs? Well, they're usually absolutely massive, are made of ice, and one was instrumental in the sinking of the *Titanic*. Oh yeah, and them melting due to global warming isn't a good thing. Well, you're about to learn a whole lot more thanks to this two-part documentary in which naturalist Chris Packham, ocean expert Helen Czerski, diver Andy Torbet, cameraman Doug Allan and doctor Chris Van Tulleken embark on an expedition to the Arctic to trace the life cycle of one of these giants of the seas.

Wednesday**Brazil with Michael Palin**

BBC1, 9pm

If you say the words 'Michael Palin in Brazil' to any discerning film fan, they will immediately picture the former Python portraying a sinister torturer Jack Link in Terry Gilliam's 1985 sci-fi fantasy. So

far, the actor has proved far friendlier in this travelogue series. Tonight, he travels by river from the country's northern border with Venezuela to the capital, Brasilia, and while en route he visits indigenous tribe the Yanomami. He learns of a threat to their hunter-gatherer lifestyle posed by the encroachment of the modern world.

Thursday**Autumnwatch 2012**

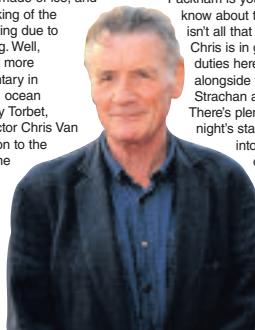
BBC2, 8pm

When it comes to the great outdoors, Chris Packham is your go-to man. What he doesn't know about the world's nature, probably isn't all that worth knowing. Of course, Chris is in good company in his hosting duties here as he takes position alongside the ever-smiley Michaela Strachan and Martin Hughes-Games. There's plenty to report back from last night's slate-out, giving us an insight into the expertly concealed world of nocturnal animals.

Young Apprentice

BBC1, 8pm

It's a sign of just how long the 'grown-up' Apprentice has been on the air that some people complained that last series was predictable, despite the fact that it was eventually won by a part-time wrestler called Ricky



Brazil with Michael Palin, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

Martin. So perhaps this new series of *Young Apprentice* will keep the moaners quiet, because while the previous runs may have shown that Britain's teens have apparently mastered the art of power-dressing, they haven't yet learned all the business clichés spouted by the adults.

Friday**Jonathan & Charlotte**

ITV1, 9pm

Even though it's The X Factor that's making the headlines at the moment, the likes of Fylian, Ella Henderson, Lucy Spraggan and co aren't the only potential new singing stars to be unearthed during 2012. This year's Britain's Got Talent introduced us to Essex teenagers Jonathan and Charlotte who, despite being pipped in the final by a dancing dog, have gone on to sign a reported £1million record deal. Here, cameras follow the duo as they get used to their newfound fame.

Me and Mrs Jones

BBC1, 9.30pm

Sarah Alexander knows a good sitcom script when she sees one. She's previously delighted us with turns in *Coupling* and *Green Wing*, and has once again proved to be fantastic in this fabulous comedy as a single mum whose complicated life sees her juggling love, affection, sex and motherhood while coping with an ex-husband, one grown-up son, two young daughters and two male admirers – with a 20-year age gap. This week, everyone gathers at the bar to celebrate Alfie's birthday, where Gemma finds herself persuading Billy to start dating another woman.

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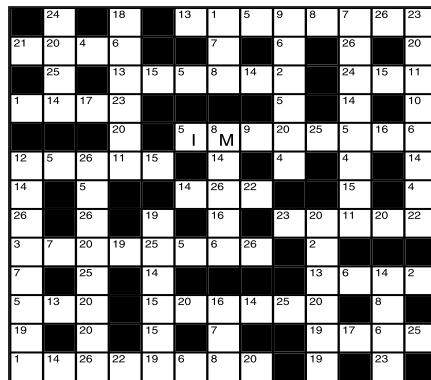
What's On!

Brain Gym

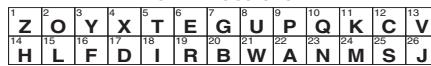
No.192

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Ladies may become such models (6)
- Illicit way to transfer stock (6)
- People who live near it have little latitude (7)
- Short, but not necessarily sweet, so to speak (5)
- Point to a wood from the window (4)
- Unlikely to be outwitted or feel pain (5)
- A place to be occupied in the Albert Hall (5)
- Hear about an ostrich (4)
- Alter round afterwards (5)
- It's easily taken by sensitive people to be a crime (7)
- What a judge may do with a man in debt? (6)
- A leader perhaps, but he won't lead (6)

Down

- Unusual seaside shingles for example (7)
- Ask for another search? (7)
- It's material for the clergy (5)
- Run true to form in training (7)
- Back at sea? Grim! (5)
- Not what landladies should do to boarders! (5)
- A burning romance somehow holds it up (9)
- Attitude taken by a navigator (7)
- Bob could be English (7)
- Rushes to find vocations (7)
- Such panic may be started by fire or burglary (5)
- An impressive sign of temper (5)
- Later included in the draft erroneously (5)

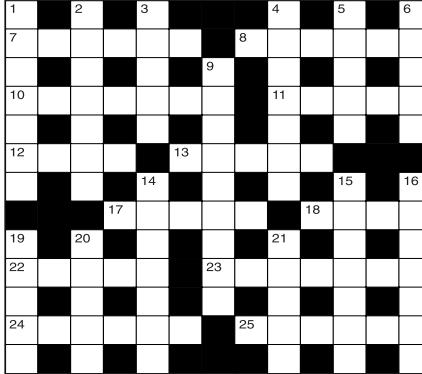
Quick Clues:

Across

- Sags (6)
- Assemble (6)
- Uniform (7)
- Hue (5)
- Rescue (4)
- Competitor (5)
- Condition (5)
- Inflamed eyelid (4)
- Lift (5)
- Cut short (7)
- Unsubstantial (6)
- Large bottle (6)

Down

- Speak to (7)
- Pardon (7)
- Upset (5)
- Biased (7)
- Polish (5)
- Salute (5)
- Truce (9)
- Disbeliever in God (7)
- Alien (7)
- Effective (7)
- Skill (5)
- Inflexible (5)
- Ruffle (5)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

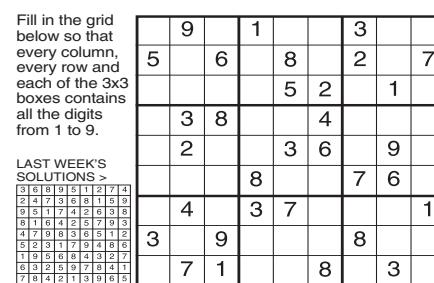
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Watch; 4 Dresses; 8 Lantern; 9 Tiara; 10 Chow; 11 Satiated; 13 Boat; 14 Peer; 16 Ungainly; 17 Argos; 20 Tenon; 21 Granted; 22 Dessert; 23 Errr. Down: 1 Well conducted; 2 Tango; 3 Heel; 4 Denial; 5 Entwines; 6 Shatter; 7 Standing order; 12 Patience; 13 Bygones; 15 Flight; 18 Rotor; 19 Name. QUICK - Across: 1 Catch; 4 Depress; 8 Nominal; 9 Topic; 10 Eros; 11 Aggrive; 13 Stop; 14 Pass; 16 Nativity; 17 Rose; 20 Idler; 21 Relieve; 22 Larceny; 23 Press. Down: 1 Consequential; 2 Temp; 3 Hang; 4 Deluge; 5 Paternal; 6 Express; 7 Secretiveness; 12 Converse; 13 Settler; 15 Stormy; 18 Obese; 19 Clap.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	8	5	1	2	7	4	9
2	4	7	3	6	8	1	5	9
9	5	1	7	4	2	6	3	8
6	8	1	4	3	5	9	7	2
4	7	9	2	6	1	8	5	3
5	2	3	1	7	9	4	6	8
1	9	5	6	8	4	3	2	7
6	3	2	5	9	7	8	4	1
7	8	4	2	1	3	9	6	5



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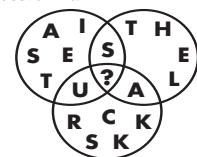
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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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Top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Kidderminster

Willenhall bungalow is 'stunningly' presented

DESCRIBED by agents as stunningly presented, this two bedroom link-detached bungalow in Willenhall is on the market priced at £165,000.

The property is on Ludlow Close, and is at canal-side location at the head of a private drive in the sought after Summer Hayes development - with viewing said to be essential.

It is approached by a gravel drive accessed by a wooden gate with parking for several vehicles and a front garden laid to lawn.

The entrance hall has doors to the conservatory measuring 13ft 5in by 11ft with French doors to the rear garden and to the inner hallway.

Study

The lounge, 18ft 5in by 11ft 11in, has sliding patio doors to the rear garden while the kitchen - 8ft by 7ft 10in - has a selection of wall-mounted cupboards and base units with roll-edge work surfaces incorporating one and a half sink and drainer unit with mixer tap, built-in oven and electric hob with extractor over, built-in dishwasher, fridge freezer and microwave.

There is also a utility room with plumbing for a washing machine. There is also a study.

There are two bedrooms and a bathroom with spa-style bath with shower over, low level WC and wash hand basin with vanity unit.

The rear garden is a combination of paved and decked areas, and there is space for a workshop and gated access to the canal.

Call Dixons on 01902 489 504 for details.



The link-detached in Ludlow Close is situated near the canalside at the head of a drive



Well-decorated, the smart lounge looks through to the conservatory



The small rear garden is a combination of paved and decked area

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- UTILITY ROOM • FRONT DRIVEWAY
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS • CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING



£135,000

Bairstow eves are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £131,000 for 32 Goode Close, Oldbury, B68 9NT. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Bairstow eves, 60 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4DZ on 0121 544 4554 before exchange of contracts.

Lettings hickshadley.com 0121 585 6688

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Luxury Living In Hayley Green A superb ground floor apartment available immediately. Offering Spacious Accommodation including Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Double Glazed Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

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HALESOWEN, LYDATE ROAD

Located In The Ever So Popular Area Of Howley Grange, Is This Recently Decorated And Carpeted Semi-Detached House, Ideal For Howley Grange Primary School, Briefly Comprising Of: Three Bedrooms, Small Kitchen, Separate Utility Area, Two Reception Rooms, Shower Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway And Garage, Small Rear Garden.

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, THE INFIELD

An unfurnished modern 3 bed semi detached family home, located on a new build development, benefitting from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Comprising Of: Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Guest WC, 3 Bedrooms, One with En-Suite, Family Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden and Allocated Parking.

£650 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, WHEELER STREET

A traditional three bedroom mid-terrace property in a popular residential area and comprising of: Front Reception Room with Original Marble Fireplace, Back Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Two Large Bedrooms and One Large Lovely Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking. Available Immediately.

£625 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, UPLANDS AVENUE

A Part Furnished To Suit Traditional Semi-Detached House. Close To Local Shops, Train Station And M5 J2, Briefly Comprising: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Double Glazing, Double Glazing, Garage And Driveway Parking, Rear Gardens.

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, UPPER ASHLEY STREET

Ideally Located In Blakes Heath For Local Shops, Buses To Halesowen And Birmingham, And A Few Minutes Drive From Rowley Regis Train Station. Is This Unfurnished Mid-Terraced Property With Parking For 2 Cars, Two Double Bedrooms And One Single Bedroom, Large Fitted Kitchen/Dining Area, Spacious Lounge, House Bathroom With Shower, Small Rear Garden, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, WRIGHT STREET

An unfurnished end terraced house, close to town centre and Tenterfields Primary School, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Back Reception Room, Cosy Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking. Available the Beginning of November

£550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEW POOL ROAD

Currently Undergoing A Full Refreshishment With A New Kitchen, New Bathroom, New Carpets, New Decoration. Is This End-Terraced Property, Located On A Few Minutes Walk Of Cradley Heath Train Station And 5 Minutes Drive From Cradley Heath Town Centre. Comprising Of: Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Large Lounge With Feature Fireplaces, Fitted Kitchen With Appliances, House Bathroom With Shower, Benefits Include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage And Driveway Parking, Rear Gardens.

£525 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, SANDON ROAD

An Unfurnished Semi-Detached House Situated On A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Comprising Of: Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Nice Size Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom With Shower, Garage And Driveway Parking, Front And Rear Gardens

£525 PCM



BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD

An unfurnished semi-detached house, located in the Woodgate Area, Ideally located for the local primary school, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Large Lounge, House Bathroom With Shower, Driveway Parking, Mature Rear Garden

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated In This Popular Residential Area, Is This Second Floor Apartment, Which Overlooks The Canal And Has Its Own Balcony. Comprising Of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom With Shower, Access To Balcony From The Master Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking. Well Worth An Inspection

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE, ACORN ROAD

Located just off Graham Road, is this very large, fully refurbished ground floor flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom With Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS

An exceptional opportunity to rent this room in a shared house, with no bills to pay at all, cleaning done for you, towels and tea and coffee supplied for each room. Also the use of free WiFi, use of the lounge, kitchen, office room. All rooms have their own en-suite facilities. Well worth a viewing, and ideal for a single person.

£500 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, MILDRED WAY

Beautifully Presented And Located In A Quiet Road. Is This Unfurnished Open Plan Bungalow, Briefly Comprising Of: One Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen With Washing Machine And Oven, Part Double Glazed, Conservatory, Low Maintenance Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

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NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

Situated On A Very Popular Road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links, is this unfurnished semi-detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Cosy Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom With Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

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HALESOWEN, FAIRFIELD ROAD

Ideally Located In Central Halesowen For Shops, Buses To Merry Hill and Birmingham, Is This Unfurnished First Floor Flat, Comprising Of: One Bedroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom. An Opportunity Not To Be Missed.

£395 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated In A Quiet Location, Within Walking Distance To Old Hill Town and Local Train Station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom With Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

£435 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Bathroom With Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area For Visitors, Communal Gardens

£425 PCM

Property with much potential



This three-bed home in St Andrews Street, Dudley, is on the market with local estate agent Jon Stanier

A SPACIOUS three-bedroom property with Victorian charm and character but in need of upgrading and improvement is on the market based on offers around £139,950.

According to agents in the house in St Andrews Street, Dudley, offers tremendous potential, with accommodation comprising of hall, spacious lounge, separate dining room, rear utility, kitchen, three excellent bedrooms, bathroom, side carport/potential garage and lawned rear gardens.

On the ground floor the entrance porch has a Minton tiled floor while the reception hall has a door to a cellar.

The lounge, 15ft 9in by 11ft 10in, has a Victorian style fireplace, while the dining room is 12ft 5in by 12ft 3in.

Units

The rear lobby 12ft 4in by 7ft 11in and kitchen, measuring 10ft 5in by 9ft 7in, has a single drainer stainless steel sink unit with base units, eye-level units, tiled floor and gas cooker point.

A particular feature of the house is a

large galleried landing, and there are also three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite comprising panel bath, pedestal wash hand basin and low level WC, as well as a shower area.

The rear garden has a paved patio area leading to a level lawned area with mature shrubs and with a drive through entry/potential garage accessed through double timber doors with inset door from road.

Contact Jon Stanier on 01384 778777 for more details or to arrange a viewing.

Save on outgoings with your new home

AS the country prepares itself for the latest round of energy price increases and another bitterly cold winter, it's clear that very few homeowners will escape the impact of fuel price rises over the coming months.

New homes have long claimed benefits over old in terms of energy efficiency, but now national housebuilder Taylor Wimpey claims that buying a new home could actually help purchasers reduce their costs in the long run and make savvy savings in 2013.

According to research carried out by the housebuilder*, buying new could save you over £1,200 a year in energy bills**.

Taylor Wimpey used an independent, qualified assessor to compare the energy efficiency and estimated cost of fuel bills for two properties - a traditional three-bedroom detached house built in the early 1900s, and a brand new three-bedroom Taylor Wimpey home.

The results showed a stark difference, with energy costs totalling an estimated £1,732 a year in the older property compared to just £510 in the new home. CO₂ emissions from the older property were also nearly four times higher than those of the new build home.

Anne Wallace, sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey Midlands, says: "A home is probably the most expensive investment you'll ever make, and it's important to make the right decision. Choosing a new home over a second-hand property could save

you thousands on DIY, maintenance and improvements, not to mention ongoing savings in areas such as fuel bills.

"By moving to a brand new Taylor Wimpey home, homeowners can benefit from a range of energy-saving features as standard, such as double-glazed windows and patio doors throughout, wall insulation and energy efficient heating.

"We know these features make our modern homes significantly more energy efficient than older properties, leading to dramatically reduced fuel bills.

"Add to this the advantages of having no unpredictable property chains plus the different financial incentives and assistance packages we can offer at the time of purchase, the savings and benefits really do start to add up."

Appliances

New homes are designed to accommodate modern lifestyles and offer features such as en-suite bathrooms, fitted wardrobes, plenty of built-in storage, modern appliances and flexible three-storey living space not often found in older homes.

Anne adds: "A new property offers buyers a blank canvas which means you don't have to go through the cost and effort of putting right other people's decoration and DIY disasters.

"And it's not just home improvement costs to consider, ongoing structural maintenance of older properties can be a costly and time-consuming business and many owners are forced to bring in the professionals for major plumbing, including repairs to roofs, plumbing, electrics and

and wiring.

"All new Taylor Wimpey properties come with an NHBC certificate so you can relax knowing that the structure of your home is guaranteed for 10 years."

Taylor Wimpey offers a wide range of high-quality homes for sale throughout the Midlands region.

Scheme To make the move to your new home even easier, buyers can also take advantage of the Government-backed NewBuy scheme.

NewBuy, which is available on brand new properties up to the value of £500,000 throughout England, has been well received by both first and second time purchasers since its launch earlier this year.

The scheme means credit-worthiness for first time buyers may now only need to save a five per cent deposit before they can get on the property ladder. In addition, home movers with limited equity in their existing house will also benefit from the increase in availability of 95 per cent loan to value mortgages.

Further details about Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available on 01926 516 900 or at www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/midlands

* Research conducted by IRT Surveys Ltd, Dundee.

** Costs have been based on national average fuel prices. Breakdown of costs as follows:

Lighting - £66.27 (SH) and £66.27 (NB)

Heating costs - £1543.82 (SH) and £1543.82 (NB)

Hot Water Costs - £122.16 (SH) and £122.16 (NB)

MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

CHRONICLE

MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Driving a new Golf from VW is like being in seventh heaven

By Ian Donaldson

WHEN a car designer tells you the fuel filler flap is "rather special" it's not hard to deduce that many, many man hours have been sweated over the car this little metal cover is attached to.

The car in question is the latest VW Golf, seventh in a line that stretches back 38 years and more than 29 million cars. So yes, you could say getting the Golf right is important for the people in the design department.

And everyone within Volkswagen itself, for that matter.

A quarter of all new VWs sold in Europe are Golfs; in Britain it's more still – almost one in three.

So no wonder VW tread carefully when it's time for a new one (it arrives here in January).

To many eyes this latest Golf (Mk VII) is the best looking of the lot, and still very obviously a Golf.

Back to the same designer quoted above: it's important you can tell you're looking at a Golf (any Golf) from 200 yards away. It's a marketing virtue enjoyed by few other cars, with the Porsche 911 and Range

Rover on our designer's short list.

Volkswagen is proud of lots of its vital new baby's features, but cutting up to 100 kilos from a car that's longer and wider than before, and rather roomier for people and luggage is top of the list.

This slimming regime means better performance, improved economy and lower emissions. A useful 23 kilos, the weight of a well stuffed holiday suitcase, has been shaved from the body alone, but VW says clever design has left it stronger and safer than ever.

Minimize

Among the safety upgrades are brakes that slow the vehicle after a collision (when the driver might be occupied elsewhere) to minimize the risk of a second impact. Buy a posher version and it will bang on the brakes by itself if it detects an impending low speed collision.

There are, in fact, a host of safety and luxury features offered that have been drawn down from cars in the class above, including adaptive cruise control that

keeps a set distance to the vehicle ahead and suspension with five driver-selected settings. And talking of suspension, this new Golf rides quite beautifully, subtly levelling out the sometimes bumpy Sardinian roads chosen to show off the newcomer.

Add in a quality interior that makes you wonder why anyone would choose a dearer new Audi A3 (a fine car in its latest guise, but a new Golf underneath) when they go shopping for a classless hatchback.

Automatic

The new Golf goes on sale here in January, costing from £16,330 for the entry level 1.2 litre S to £24,625 for the range topping GT 2.0 litre TDI 150 with the quite excellent DSG automatic gearbox.

It took only a very few miles in both a 1.4 litre petrol and 2.0 litre diesel to reveal a car that's instant five star material.

The 1.4 petrol impressed with plenty of punch and you'd never know that two of the engine's four cylinders close down on light throttle openings to save fuel.

You can hear the engine more in the diesel, but it's a distant sporty hum that adds to the drive rather than proving a noisy distraction.



The seventh edition of Volkswagen's superstar Golf starts at £16,330

Neither car has quite the nimble enthusiasm for a corner you'll find in a Focus, but they feel so grown up and polished you don't want the journey to end.

The designers must already be gently imagining what they'll do when Golf Mk VIII is needed in a few years' time. I don't envy their task...

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PEUGEOT 208 1.6 SE 58 Reg, 5-dr. Black, Air Con, Alloys, Panorama Roof, 67k, FSH.....£4995

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MITSUBISHI LANCER 1.5 GSI 10 Reg, 5-dr. Silver, air con, alloys, 26k, FSH.....£7295

TOYOTA PRIUS T.SPIRIT 07 (56) Reg, 5-dr. Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 38k, FSH.....£7295

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Marking 50 years of Ford Cortina

Progress, someone clever once said, is taking two steps forward and one step back. Drive an old car and you'll agree.

Drive two old cars, back to back, and you'll come away happily convinced that new is best, but we have to pay for progress in more ways than money.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Ford Cortina, a car that went on to sell in millions (more than 2.8 million, to be precise), until production ceased in 1982.

For much of that time, and in five different versions, the Cortina was the best selling car in Britain. It reigned for years as the best value family car you could buy, mixing interior space with a huge boot and enough style to make the neighbours jealous (unless they had a Cortina too).

But half a century is a long time in motoring time. Can any car that old, or nearly that old, still have anything to charm the driver of today?

To find out, Ford dug some oldies out of its museum and let me have a drive. No restrictions on route... just "here are the keys, see you for a cup of tea later."

Radiator

First up was a 1974 Cortina MkIII, glowing very 70s green and looking every inch a downscaled replica of something from the other side of the Atlantic, with rounded rump and radiator grille like something from the front of a posh radiogram (remember those?).

It cost £1,162 new (today's equivalent today, the Ford Mondeo, costs from £18,100) and this particular car is a modest 'L' model with a less than thrilling 1.3 litre engine and top speed of 84mph.

Not fast, then. But there are compensations: starting with ride comfort that today's cars can only dream about, almost like the proverbial pillow, in fact. And lots of space inside, and windscreen pillars that don't blank out approaching vehicles at tricky crossroads.

You wouldn't want to corner fast in this Cortina, though; tackling bends owes something to sailing – start winding on steering

By Ian Donaldson

lock long before the corner arrives and pay it out before you're finished.

Big windows make the interior feel nice and airy, even if the thin front pillars would offer nothing like the crashworthiness of today's cars, with their extra metal placed where it will help in a rollover.

The little engine worked hard, helped by a nicely notchy four-speed gearbox, but this is a car more comfortable at 40mph than 50mph.

Not so the next Cortina to be tried; older but better. This 1968 Cortina MkII cost £810 new and was a posh 1600 Super, boasting 87mph flat out and enough charm to make its modern equivalent seem just a bit dull.

Pillars

Like the other Cortina, there was the sense of space from thin pillars but here was a car with enough performance not to disgrace itself in modern traffic.

Yes, it all gets a bit busy at 60mph but it feels as though it will cruise along all day, needing the occasional downchange on hills but generally serving as an agreeable family friend.

Without power assistance, the steering feels locked solid at a standstill but eases off from walking pace. You have to wind your own windows (shocking!) and you'll search in vain for air conditioning.

None of which matters a jot. The world's a lovely place at 55mph, sitting on a seat more lounge than hip-hugger. And the queue building up behind will be past at the next straight bit of road.



Prices for the Volvo V40 start at £22,295 and are available for delivery from next January

Volvo takes a fresh look at groundbreaking V40s

VOLVO Car UK has announced the pricing of the all-new Volvo V40 R-Design and Volvo V40 Cross Country.

Starting from £22,295 and £22,595 respectively, Volvo is now able to offer both a more sports inspired and a more rugged looking take on the V40.

The V40 R-Design has taken cues from its R-Design stablemates in the rest of the range, with a re-profiled front bumper and rear diffuser, five-spoke 17" Ixion wheels, silver matt door mirrors, unique R-Design embossed nubuck upholstery, sports floor mats, sports steering wheel and pedals.

In addition to this, as standard, the V40 R-Design benefits from a TFT crystal display screen with unique blue colouring, illuminated gear-knob, unique R-Design aluminium trim and

vertical LED day-running lights.

Those wanting the ultimate in sports luxury can upgrade to the R-Design Lux, complementing the standard specification with active bending xenon headlights with cleaning system, rain sensor, leather-faced R-Design embossed seats, cruise control, keyless start and rear theatre lighting.

The V40 R-Design is available in the striking launch colour, Rebel Blue, unique to R-Design, along with six other colours.

Emissions

Prices start from £22,295 for the D2 R-Design, still benefiting from class leading CO2 emissions of 94g/km, up to the T5 Geartronic R-Design Lux Nav, available from £31,390.

The V40 Cross Country is Volvo's answer to those customers that want a small 5-door hatchback but with a

more "off-road" and rugged look. As standard, the Cross Country SE is offered with autofolding door mirrors with ground lights and black mirror covers, 16" alloy wheels, rain sensor, textile/T-Tec upholstery, tread plates and silver roof rails.

The Cross Country can be further enhanced by specifying the Cross Country Lux version. This includes the ample specification of the SE, plus leather-faced upholstery, active bending xenon headlights, 17" alloy wheels, LED day-running lights, rear reading and theatre lighting.

The V40 Cross Country is available from £22,595 for the D2 Cross Country SE, up to the T5 Geartronic Cross Country Lux Nav with All-Wheel Drive, from £33,875.

Both models are available to order now and first customer deliveries will start to take place in January 2013.

Korean giant aiming at turbo-charged Veloster



The price is right – Hyundai are planning to produce a sub £20,000 Veloster Turbo

HYUNDAI is planning an entry-level Veloster Turbo targeted at a list price of less than £20,000, it has been confirmed.

A version called the Turbo SE (Special Equipment) recently went on sale for £21,995, fitted as standard with a huge kit list that includes leather seats, climate control, satnav and 18in two-tone alloy wheels.

However, a Hyundai UK insider has revealed that a new version of the '1+2-door' car is on the way, with some of the Turbo SE's kit removed, such as satellite navigation and leather seats, and a list price at £2,000 lower.

The aim is reported to be to maintain as much of the functional equipment as possible, losing only superfluous luxury items.

The key visual features such as the body kit, longer spoiler and 18in alloys

are set to stay, unless the alloy wheels need to be downsized to visually differentiate the two versions. A final decision has not yet been taken.

A turbocharged engine has brought new verve and dynamism to the unusual Korean design, and it is hoped that following the flagship Turbo SE, a cheaper model will help to expand the model's appeal and affordability.

Further details are expected by March next year.

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Approx 18 months old, ginger top half, white belly with ginger patch on belly, micro-chipped. Since October 14 from Oak Hill, Walsall. 07891 645028.

All information gratefully received.

LOST—Friday morning Lower Lichfield Street area, Willenhall, showed black cat, white face and paws 01922 446296 / 07938 130062.

LOST—Bettweiler girl, Windmill Hill, Colley Gate, Little, friendly, small reward. Call 07947 538783.



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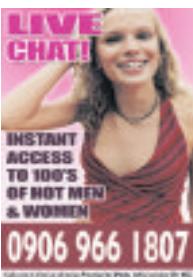
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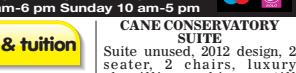
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Name and address of premises or club: Barrack Lane, Halesowen B63 2WX

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First-half setbacks make goal academic

Boys' League

HALAS were three goals down at half-time.

A better second-half performance saw Connor Chater score a well-worked goal in a 5-1 defeat.

Man of the Match went to James Knight for a strong performance.

Penn U9 6

HALAS Hawks West U9 2

The scoreline did not reflect a battling and luckless performance by HALAS.

Jack Blakeway scored from the spot and Shakiel Powell grabbed the other but a combination of Penn's excellent keeper and a HALAS attack which hit the woodwork five times helped the home side claim victory.

Bilbrook U9 8

HALAS Hawks North U9 1

The under-nines North went down 8-1 with Aiden Jackson getting their goal.

HALAS Hawks U11 8

Brierley Hill U11 1

The under-11s West continued their unbeaten start.

Goals came from Casey Collins (3), Louis Vasilous (2), Sam Bulmer, Taylor Nolan and Burhaan Siddiqi. Man of the match was Owen Rath.

HALAS Hawks U14 1

Forest Falcons U14 2

HALAS were edged out after starting brightly, but missing chances.

They led midway through the first half through Connor Fisher from close range but Falcons levelled with a penalty just before the break and hit the winner late on.

HALAS man of the match was Ben Clements.

HALAS Hawks U16 3

Kewford Eagles U16 1

Two goals from Dan Willets and one by Josh March saw HALAS win an entertaining game.

Girls League

Bustleholme U15 1

HALAS Hawks U15 1

HALAS dominated, but with star striker Amy Blake more injured were unable to capitalise on chances.

Kayleigh Pomfrett worked hard and was rewarded with a goal.

Droitwich Spa U17 1

HALAS Hawks U17 0

HALAS lost a tight game against table-topping Droitwich, after a wickedly-dipping shot which keeper Liv Woomans got a hand to but could not keep out.

Player of the match was Zou Tidman, who gave a solid performance at the back.

Hales could have scored more

Sikh Union (Coventry) 0

Old Halesonians 1

OLD HALESONIANS firsts won but should have hit more. Their high tempo put the home side on the back foot but, despite most possession, chances were at a premium.

The home side committed more and more fouls as they came under pressure.

Hales' style of play became frenetic, as they went close on a couple of occasions.

The winning goal came soon after half-time.

A penalty corner was saved by

Old Halesonians Hockey Club

the Sikh Union defence, but Hales were first to the rebound.

Mike Wattley found the backboard from a few yards out – his first goal for the first team.

There was a final score for the visitors when goalkeeper Alex Fraser saved a penalty corner.

The deflection was deemed dangerous and another penalty corner – the final play of the game – was awarded.

Sikh Union surrounded the D but Hales blocked the shot and

Mark Curzon cleared to the cheers of the rest of the side.

Old Halesonians 2 Kings Heath 2

The seconds captured their first league point of the season.

The two teams started with contrasting styles, the home team looking to build steady pressure from patient passing and the visitors trusting to quick counter-attacks.

Kings Heath opened the scoring after a long ball into the D drew a rare mistake from

goalkeeper Steve Charlton. Old Hales levelled just before half-time when a scramble in the D led to Ash Greaves flicking the ball past the keeper.

In the second half, Kings Heath regained their advantage with a second goal.

However, Old Hales now began to dominate possession and a clever attacking move saw Greaves put away his second goal.

Other results: Pershore Ladies 3 Old Hales Ladies firsts 1, Old Hales thirds 3 Stratford 3, Worcester 3 Old Hales youths 3, Stratford 1, Old Hales 2, Old Hales Badgers 1 Kings Heath Badgers 1.



Mike Wattley in action for Old Hales

Rostrum finish for Dixon in last round

RACING driver James Dixon capped a strong second half of the season in the AirAsia Renault UK Clio Cup with a rostrum finish in the final round. It consolidated third place in the championship for Wednesbury-based Total Control Racing.

After rejoining TCR at Oulton Park, Dixon has soon returned to front-running ways.

Qualifying 10th in a tricky session on Saturday, Dixon raced to seventh place in a closely-contested encounter in which he had his hands full with Jake Giddings during the closing stages.

In round 16 on Sunday, Dixon started seventh on the grid and threaded his way neatly through some contact at the exit of Paddock Hill Bend to move up into the top three. He grabbed second at the beginning of lap three with a great move but was pushed back to third, where he finished.

Team-mates Nic Hamilton and Rob Smith had a more difficult ending to their campaigns. Hamilton drove well in race one to claim a 13th-place finish. In race two, Hamilton came 16th. Smith was held up in race one and finished 18th, following up with 17th.

Recruits perform in victory

Rochester 0 Tipton Town 2
JUST seven days after a tepid FA Vase performance at Castleford, Tipton Town were in Midland Alliance action with new recruits.

Rochester's Chris Sterling shot just wide before new-boy Graham Ashton quelled threats by Darren Bullock and Mensah Kinch.

Tipton grew in confidence with Karl Edwards' pace and Nigel Penney steadily proving more effective and in the last minute of the half Rochester half-cleared a corner for Rueben Wilson to score from at least 25 yards.

Rochester keeper Richard Froggett saved from Edwards in the 55th minute before Rochester's Sterling was foiled by Hayfield.

In the 73rd minute, Nigel Penney out-sprinted home defenders to slip the ball past Froggett.

Edwards gave way to Jay Chambers while Nathan Waite came on for Penney.



Scorer Shane Long reminds fans how far the club have gone



Gareth McAuley puts his head in where it hurts

It would be churlish not to take a moment to salute them and remind ourselves of just what Albion were up against. There are times when, from a distance, it is still possible to see City as a living soap opera. But underneath all the crazy headlines, they are a team of awesome power who, in controlling so much of this game despite their numerical disadvantage, displayed the full range of their talents. It was possible to hear some commentators suggesting City were still "mis-firing" despite this victory, but that is insulting to the Baggies.

You don't get to beat this Albion side on their home patch with 10 men unless you are something out of the ordinary and the home fans who watched will acknowledge that, for all their superb advances in recent seasons, opposition which can bring resources so lavishly-assembled remain out of reach.

"We know what we are," was the message on Shane Long's T-shirt, a nod to a chorus from the galleries but also a timely reminder to team-mates not to forget just how far they have come – and that such a journey is not negotiated without boasting some impressive qualities. One of them, Peter Odemwingie, will now be the focus of a populist call for a full return to duty after his impact from the substitutes' bench.

Even with Milner's departure, a hairline but correct call by referee Mark Clattenburg after the speeding Long had been clipped going through on goal, Albion's challenge was always mindful of the threat posed by City players capable of taking out any number of opponents with devastating bursts.

Balotelli did just that with the first-half's most outrageous moment of individual skill and power, forcing a fine stop from Foster.

Carlos Tevez opened the second half with a cross-shot that again tested Foster to his limit before Yaya Toure headed over from point-blank range.

But a late surge of pressure sucked them all forward at a corner and a hesitation by Liam Ridgewell gifted possession from which City broke away to score their winner. No amount of rationale – Dzeko alone cost more than Albion's starting XI – could ease the hurt. That will be Clarke's task now.

Watching by now from behind the glass in the media room, Milner groaned in despair and must have suspected this was not to be City's day. But then came the spectacular climax.

A misjudgement from a corner by the otherwise faultless Foster gave Dzeko an equaliser 10 minutes from time and Albion, annoyed with themselves, twinned when perhaps they should have stuck.

Albion's final sub Romelu Lukaku nearly produced a winner with an overhead kick, having gone close from crosses supplied by the flying Odemwingie and Zoltan Gera.

But a late surge of pressure sucked them all forward at a corner and a hesitation by Liam Ridgewell gifted possession from which City broke away to score their winner. No amount of rationale – Dzeko alone cost more than Albion's starting XI – could ease the hurt. That will be Clarke's task now.

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Heartache

City's late flourish sinks sad Baggies
Page 39



Magic Mike

Old Hales ace nets his first goal in win
Page 39

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Rivals get late points to snatch honours

WEDNESBURY 14 BLOXWICH 18

WEDNESBURY, blighted by injuries again, suffered a narrow defeat as local rugby union rivals Bloxwich grabbed two late scores.

Full-back Nick Biddlecombe went off midway through the first half and winger Doug Morgan in the last quarter of the game.

Wednesbury led after 10 minutes with a try by scrum-half Mike Chivers which Biddlecombe converted.

Bloxwich responded shortly afterwards with an unconverted try.

Wednesbury increased the lead as winger Doug Morgan ran two-thirds of the pitch, evading a number of tackles to cross under the posts.

Biddlecombe added the conversion.

But 10 minutes later, Bloxwich scored a second unconverted try to go in at half-time 14-10 adrift.

The second started as the first had finished but as the game went on Bloxwich came on stronger.

Both defences were playing well, Wednesbury's Chris Bartley and Chris Harsley - both new to the first team - each enjoying good games.

Bloxwich became stronger and finally made their pressure pay in the last five minutes scoring a try and a penalty to take the win.

On Saturday, Wednesbury travel to Yardley and District (3pm).

Wednesbury seconds won 31-10 at Bloxwich seconds while the thirds drew 17-17 with Willenhall fourths.

Tividale win on Star visit

CONTINENTAL STAR 0 TIVIDALE 1
TIVIDALE came home from their first visit to Continental Star with an unexciting 1-0 win.

At times Tividale kept the ball well in this Midland Alliance clash and played some delightful stuff.

In a fairly uneventful first half it was the home side that started the better with Ricardo Reid rounding Tividale goalkeeper Lloyd Evans on 18 minutes, but as he prepared to tap into the empty net Jason Chilton cleared his effort off the line.

In the 35th minute Tividale's Kyle Hill cut inside from the right wing, played a one-two with striker Avun Jephcott and fired his shot into the bottom right hand corner for what proved to be the game's only goal.

Goalscorer in the Wright place to deny Yeltz

Halesowen Town 2 Leek Town 2

HALESOWEN built a two-goal lead at the interval, but had to settle for a single Evo-Stik Division One South point thanks to two Peter Wright goals inside five minutes.

The Yeltz made an ideal start to take a fifth-minute lead on Tuesday night when Ben Haseley worked his way down the left and pulled the ball back for Ben Smith to drill the ball home.

Luke Corbett then went close after 13 minutes and Haseley hit a snapshot wide four minutes later.

But with Leek looking to play catch-up in the league, Sam Hall played a neat 26th-minute exchange of passes before stabbing

his shot just past Simon Flower's post. Yeltz doubled the lead in the 35th minute when the visiting defence failed to clear. Corbett took advantage to draw goalkeeper Daniel Lloyd-Weston before crossing from the right for Haseley to tap home his 17th goal of the season from close range.

Corbett had a good opportunity to seal the game with a third goal in the 43rd minute, but his free header was saved by the legs of Lloyd-Weston, with Danny Smith tidying up.

The visitors threw on burly substitute

Matt Haddrell up front after the interval and he went close with three headers in the first 10 minutes of the second half before nodding another effort onto the top of the Yeltz net in the 66th minute.

By contrast, Halesowen failed to test Leek's defence and paid the price for failing to close out the match as the experienced Wright grabbed a point for his team.

Wright turned the ball home on the goal-line in front of Flower from Tim Sanders' cross from the right to make it 2-1 in the 70th minute. Haseley almost extended

Halesowen's lead three minutes later but his overhead kick struck the base of the post.

Wright then put Leek level in the 75th minute with another close range tap-in after the ball was again played across the Halesowen goal. With Leek in the ascendancy, Karl Charlton fired just wide before Halesowen substitute Dan Evans just failed to connect in front of goal in the 88th minute.

HALESOWEN: Flower, Kelly, Caines, S Brooks, Winsper, Milligan, B Smith (Lester 80), Barnfield, Corbett (D Evans 74), Haseley, Gueyes (Bowen 63), Subs not used: W Brooks, Lowney, Lloyd-Weston, Sam Hall, Gabe Stevenson (68), Shelley, Wright, Charlton, Urwin (Haddrell 48). Subs not used: Danylyk, Roberts. **Referee:** Aki Howson.

Milligan sees red as woes continue

HALESOWEN: Rainworth MW 3

HALESOWEN slumped to the fifth defeat of a miserable October after further defensive woes gifted Rainworth Miners Welfare their first away points.

The new-look Yeltz fell behind after just eight minutes on Saturday when deputy home goalkeeper Simon Flower failed to control a back-pass and his error handed Blair Anderson the simple task of slotting into an empty net.

Flower then twice denied Karl Slack with last-ditch blocking saves before making a fine fingertip stop to keep out Callum Lloyd's 31st-minute drive.

In the second period Ben Haseley was denied by the legs of visiting goalkeeper Joe McCormack.

Waltzed

But the visitors doubled the lead in the 56th minute as Slack waltzed around the Halesowen defence before crossing for full-back Kieran Walker to side-foot home. The Wrens got a third after 68 minutes when Ryan Goward nipped in ahead of a hesitating Flower to nod home.

Home substitute Milligan was sent off with a straight red card in the 86th minute for showing dissent before the out-of-sorts Yeltz finally claimed a late consolation when substitute Ben Smith headed home from Jean-Michel Gueyes' 87th-minute corner.

HALESOWEN: Flower, Miller, Caines, S Brooks, Hull (Lester 69), Barnfield (Smith 71), Steane (Milligan 32), Winsper, Corbett, Haseley, Gueyes. Subs not used: D Evans, W Brooks. **Rainworth Miners Welfare:** McCormack, Walker, Goward, Conn, Kitchen, Burton, Cooke (83), Lloyd, Bacon, Slack, (Turner 81), Holmes, Anderson (Clarke 83). **Referee:** John Roskelly.

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POTENTIAL RISING STAR IN THE RANKS

ALBION FANS have a treat in store when another of the club's recruits settles into English football, reckons Dan Ashworth.

Little has so far been seen of Yassine El Ghannassy, who is on loan from Middlesbrough with a view to a permanent deal at the end of the season, other than his first goal in the Capital Cup win at Yeovil. But Ashworth, who revealed that the 22-year-old Belgian wide man had long been on Albion's radar, is confident he will still make his mark.

"We nearly signed El Ghannassy in the January when Roy (Hodgson) was here," said the club's sporting and technical director.

"Gent pulled out at the last minute and said they wouldn't do it."

"Yassine is a young, exciting winger who no one has seen yet. He will take a few months to settle."

"I remember going to see him. He was sub when it was 0-0. When he came on the whole crowd got forward on the edge of their seat."

"He did just two things which changed the momentum of the game."

Talent

"They won 2-0, he had nothing to do with the goals but he changed the game. He's a very exciting talent. He will score goals and create goals. But he is still very young."

Ashworth, who leaves for his new FA job at the end of the season, is adamant that Steve Clarke the Baggies got the right man for the job.

He said: "Whenever we change any head of department I ask the chairman what his criteria is."

"He wanted someone with experience in the Premier League, he wanted a coach - not a manager. Someone who would get out on the pitch and work with the players."

Carl breezes home to clinch championship



Carl Breeze, of Wednesbury team Total Control Racing, celebrates his success at Brands Hatch in Kent

TOTAL CONTROL RACING'S Carl Breeze is the new Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup champion.

He clinched the title for the Wednesbury team in emotional scenes at Brands Hatch on Sunday.

Breeze poignantly dedicated the triumph to his late sister, Sarah, who lost her life in a road accident a decade ago.

Having been so close to sealing the championship over the past two years with TCR, the task this season looked near-impossible for Breeze with a

deficit of almost 120 points to make-up at one stage before he rejoined Lee Brookes' squad in time for the fourth event of the year.

Putting together a sensational campaign since then, Breeze took the championship lead for the first time during round 25 on Saturday with second place.

He then added two further podium finishes in rounds 26 and 27 to claim his first title since winning the Formula Renault UK single-seater championship back in 2001. "It's been a hard,

long fight, we were more than 100 points down at one point - TCR is the best team in the country", said the 33-year-old.

"I'd like to dedicate this championship win to my sister, Sarah, who lost her life 10 years ago," Breeze added.

"She last saw me win the Formula Renault UK Championship - this is for you, sis."

"It's great to get the job done", said team principal Brookes, "We've been so close the last couple of years."

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CONTINENTAL STAR 0 TIVIDALE 1

TIVIDALE came home from their first visit to Continental Star with an unexciting 1-0 win.

At times Tividale kept the ball well in this Midland Alliance clash and played some delightful stuff.

In a fairly uneventful first half it was the home side that started the better with Ricardo Reid rounding Tividale goalkeeper Lloyd Evans on 18 minutes, but as he prepared to tap into the empty net Jason Chilton cleared his effort off the line.

In the 35th minute Tividale's Kyle Hill cut inside from the right wing, played a one-two with striker Avun Jephcott and fired his shot into the bottom right hand corner for what proved to be the game's only goal.

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